# FAMILIAR LETTERS

FROM AN ELDER TO A YOUNGER

*BROTHER.*

ENTERED IN STATIONERS HALL.

K Patrimonus

# FAMILIAR LETTERS,

FROM

AN ELDER TO A YOUNGER

# BROTHER,

SERVING FOR HIS FREEDOM

IN THE TRINITY-HOUSE,

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

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Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum,
Tendimus in Latium.——VIRGIL.

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NEWCASTLE:
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MDCCLXXXV.

(BY PERMISSION)

TO THE

*MASTER,*

PILOTS, AND SEAMEN,

OF THE

TRINITY-HOUSE,

*NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,*

THIS WORK IS DEDICATED,

BY

THEIR MOST OBEDIENT

HUMBLE SERVANT,

*PALINURUS.*

THE

# AUTHOR's APOLOGY.

THE *noblest sphere of action a reasonable Being can be employed in, is to endeavour to promote the welfare, and extend the interest of his fellow creatures. To reclaim the vicious, to encourage and enforce the practice of virtue, is the command of* GOD, *and the chief end of all our existence.—Reason prompts us to the Observance of those virtues: The universal Parent of all instils it into us, as the only way of securing* his *favour and* our own *immortal happiness.*

*The regard I had for a younger Brother drew me into such like reflections: Not that his conduct was reprehensible,—quite the reverse! But apprehensive lest he should not continue stedfast in his duty, and knowing, from my own experience, that Youth are too liable to stray from the path of rectitude, and unwarily fall into error by following*

*bad*

*bad examples.—These suggestions induced me (as a sea-faring man) to point out to him a proper mode of conduct; which I have done by way of beacon, in order that he may evade those rocks and shoals upon which many have been shipwrecked.*

*The design of this work was intended only for a Brother's perusal. Some of my particular friends who read it in manuscript, thought it would be useful to others. Being willing to contribute, however trifling, what might be considered of service to the profession, I have ventured to present it to the Public; flattering myself, the intention will, in a great measure, apologize for its inaccuracies.*

*How far I have succeded in this attempt, I leave to the judgment of the impartial Reader, and hope he will permit me to say, that my sentiments are sincere, and arose from an affectionate regard for a Brother's welfare, without having any other interested motive in view.*

*Being conscious of my own inability, I cannot divest myself of some fears, however my friends may have flattered me; and had I not pledged my*

*faith*

*faith to the Public, for the exhibition of these Letters, I am convinced they never would have made their appearance.*

But if calm Reason at the helm preside,
My little Bark will stem both wind and tide:
Should Fortune favour,—I successful prove,
The UNION ENSIGN shall proclaim your love.

*All that remains is, to submit myself to the candour and generosity of the good-natured Reader, trusting he will make some little allowances, particularly when he considers that writing is not my province; and relying on this, rather than any fancied excellence in the composition, I beg leave to subscribe myself*

*His most obedient*

*humble Servant,*

PALINURUS.

8

# Familiar Letters, &c.

## LETTER I.

Pene gemelli fraternis Animis. HORACE.

*Sure in the self-same Mould our Minds were cast*
*Twins in Affection, Judgment, Humour, Taste.*

DEAR JACK,

I Received yours, and am glad that your sentiments correspond with mine. Do not mistake me, JACK: I do not mean to claim the privilege of a superior understanding; but, for our mutual advantage, would wish you to make whatever objections may occur to you. I am no way related to his holiness the Pope, and of course, have not the least pretentions to infalibility; therefore it is more than probable I may err in my judgment.—But be that as it may, it is not for us, who agree in opinion, to dispute about subjects of this nature. I know there is not any thing requires a

greater delicacy than advice, and think it a very neceſſary point, to agree in a right underſtanding at firſt ſetting out. I am certain this is requiſite to give my admonitions due weight, and cauſe them to have an happy effect. Preſuming upon this, let me warn you then, in the firſt place, to be particularly cautious in the choice of your companions; as on their connections and intimacies there is more depending than I apprehend you are aware of. It is a common obſervation, and a very juſt one, that "all is not gold that glitters:" and by the ſame rule you will find, that every one is not your friend who pretends to be ſo. I am ſenſible, at your time of life, this kind of doctrine will not be very palatable; but it is no leſs true on that account; and you may depend upon what I ſay as matter of fact. I ſpeak with ſincerity: I have no intereſt in deceiving you; and, notwithſtanding my profeſſions, could not be your friend, if I flattered you. We are all partial to ourſelves; and, naturally ſanguine in our ideas, paint things not as they really are, but as we would wiſh to have them. Labouring under this deluſion, infatuated with particular objects, and blind to their foibles, we open a fine field for deception, and, as it were, invite the artful and deſigning to make (if I may be allowed the

expreſ-

expreſſion) a harveſt of us. Suffer not vanity to harbour in your boſom: it is a deceitful companion, and will betray you in the hour of danger. Suſpect the man who flatters you, and conſider ſuch flattery as an affront paid to your underſtanding. We are frequently, by indulging too great a proportion of *ſelf-love** (of which moſt of us have a competent ſhare) flattered out of our better ſentiments, by thoſe whoſe intereſt or inclination it is to deceive us; and ſo groſsly do we aſſiſt them in impoſing upon ourſelves by our credulity, that we have not the ſmalleſt apprehenſion:—Although every body perceives it but ourſelves, yet few care to meddle in a point of ſo delicate a nature, leſt their veracity ſhould be called in queſtion, and they involved in a world of uneaſineſs, where common prudence whiſpered they had no buſineſs. We know for certain our intentions are juſt and honourable; and the undeſigning heart, ſuſpecting no ill, forms its ideas and conceptions accordingly, naturally concluding that all are good that appear to be ſo: a very charitable, but very erroneous method of forming



* *Self-love*, the ſpring of motion, acts the ſoul;
*Reaſon's* comparing balance rules the whole;
Man, but for *that*, no action could attend,
And, but for *this*, were active to no end. POPE.

a judgment of mankind. I hope you will not think me ill-natured, Brother, when I admoniſh you to truſt no one until you know him well, be his appearance ever ſo flattering. And how ſhould you know him? a little time is neceſſary for this knowledge; though after all you may be deceived. The accompliſhed man is not always a good one, and the moſt dangerous often appear the moſt agreeable. I would have you take my word for it, they can cringe, and fawn, and flatter too, to gain a favorite purpoſe. What I mean by this is, to ſet you ſufficiently on your guard. I ſhould not like to have you, who are naturally open, ſuſpicious, but cautious; your own prudence muſt direct your choice: I would not have you too haſty and precipitate in a matter of ſo much conſequence. There is no ſuch thing as truſting to appearances. I can tell you, many have found their error when, perhaps, it was too late. Think then, in ſuch ſituations, that it is poſſible you may be diſappointed, notwithſtanding the favorable opinion you have formed; and that you have heard of people being ruined by being too eaſy of belief, and not ſufficiently wary. Only follow theſe ſimple rules, and I flatter myſelf you will be able to form a tolerable judgment, without being indebted, as many are, to cruel

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experience. Avoid, as much as poſſible, that bluntneſs which ſome people miſtakingly call *honeſty*; an excuſe for rudeneſs: I love your frank, free diſpoſition; but take care you do not get into the extreme. It has its limits; and I have known thoſe who had a ſimilar character to yourſelf, by priding themſelves on ſpeaking their mind freely on all occaſions, as they term it, have been brought into very awkward ſituations: and, for my own part, I cannot ſee the leaſt neceſſity why my being in company with an impertinent fellow ſhould be the mean of getting me my head broke by telling him ſo. In ſhort, I would have you civil, and obliging to all, but familiar with few: and let me entreat you, as you value your own happineſs, not to enter into any ſerious attachment, until ſuch time as you are morally certain, from convincing circumſtances, that the perſon ſoliciting your friendſhip is worthy your eſteem, and entitled to your confidence. If you ſhould be ſo happy as to meet with one of thoſe, and find upon trial your regard for him properly applied, hug him to your boſom, nor part with him but with your life; for, believe me, a jewel of this kind is rare, and when found, is of ineſtimable value!

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Do not ſuppoſe that repeated diſappointments in life have ſoured my temper, and been the occaſion of theſe obſervations; but rather think that my ſentiments are founded on experience, and drawn from real matters of fact. And as I think it may profit you, I will be honeſt enough to tell you, that had I followed the plan I am laying down to you, I ſhould have ſaved myſelf a great deal of mortification and unhappineſs. I do not pretend to regulate your conduct, neither do I doubt your diſcernment; but think my knowledge of mankind (if I may be allowed to claim any excellence in being acquainted with their vices) gives me ſuperiority here; and I ſhall think myſelf extremely happy, if, by pointing out the errors of others, I can contribute in the ſmalleſt degree to make my brother wary.

This is acting the part of a friend in the true extent and meaning of the word, and not like thoſe who only call themſelves ſo;—an inſect tribe, who baſk and flutter round us on a ſummer's day, and leave us when a cloud appears. Language is too faint to paint a Brother's feelings; our drinking one milk is, to me, the ſmalleſt motive for my love.

And

And now, to reply to your letter,—I pity you; for I find, by your writing, the ſituation you are in is not agreeable: but, my dear Brother, we do not look for refined ſentiments and elegance of manners amongſt thoſe whoſe time is ſpent entirely on the water; honeſty and courage are as much as can be expected from them, and thoſe, let me tell you, are no inconſiderable virtues; therefore they are not to be deſpiſed becauſe they have not the qualifications which conſtitute the fine gentleman. The accompliſhed man has frequently ſtrange peculiarities, and is in many caſes highly exceptionable. Think then there are inconveniencies in all ſtations of life, and that there is no one thoroughly happy:—That reflection will, I am ſure, make you think your lot is by no means a bad one. The ſituation you are in at preſent (as you are but ſeldom in the coal trade) gives you an opportunity of ſeeing the world; and nothing is ſo improving to the mind, as a knowledge of the manners and cuſtoms of other nations. In ſhort, it makes home in the end more agreeable.

I ſhould now endeavour to recollect what news is ſtirring either in town or country; but as our ſiſter *Harriot's* letter travels in company with

with mine, I preſume what I could ſay of that kind would be but a ſuperfluous repetition; nor would it be prudent in me to encroach upon her office, who I am pretty well perſuaded is a much better hiſtorian in domeſtic tranſactions.—Adieu, and believe me ever

Yours affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER II.

*Love, the most gen'rous Passion of the Mind,*
*The softest Refuge Innocence can find:*
*The safe Director of unguarded Youth,*
*Fraught with kind Wishes, and secur'd by Truth.*
*Heav'n in our Cup this precious Drop hath thrown,*
*To make the nauseous Draught of Life go down.* ROCH.

DEAR JACK,

YOURS I received, and find you have partly anticipated my intentions, in requesting my thoughts upon *friendship*, and *the choice of a companion*. On serious consideration, I cannot help thinking it absolutely necessary; in order to render your situation in this transitory life as comfortable as possible, and to make you a desirable object for a happy union. I shall therefore endeavour to point out some particulars, the result of a long experience; and, contrary to my first intentions, give you a rule of conduct, prior to that which I judge necessary for rendering you accomplished in your profession.

In order to form a juſt and true idea of this generous intercourſe, A RECIPROCAL AFFECTION, may I not refer you to our friend Mr T——n? I am ſure, at leaſt, he has taught me to improve my own notions of that exalted and refined affection, by thoſe inſtances of friendſhip I have experienced in him: and it is from thence I am convinced that it muſt have virtue and good ſenſe for its baſis, in order to form a firm and laſting coalition. I need not tell you, Jack, there are a great many requiſites for this union of hearts; ſuch as a ſimilarity in ideas, age, circumſtances, humours, inclinations, and paſſions. Virtuous ſentiments are abſolutely neceſſary to ſupport and conduct friendſhip, as well as give it ſtrength and ſtability.

Nothing is ſo common as to hear people complain of the inconſtancy and falſeneſs of friends: This would not be the caſe, if the world in general were more cautious than they uſually are, in forming connections of this nature; but the misfortune is, our friendſhips are apt to be too forward, and thus either fall off in the bloſſom, or never arrive at maturity.

Moſt people pretend to have theſe ideas, and think

think themſelves ſufficiently qualified for this refined commerce; but let me tell you, Jack, there is not one in a thouſand poſſeſſed of thoſe qualities neceſſary for its ſubſiſtance and duration.

As citizens of the world, a ſocial intercourſe is the grand characteriſtic of our ſpecies; and we ſhould all be friends, if virtue and good ſenſe univerſally prevailed: But as we find the contrary, can we be too circumſpect in the choice of our companions? Few, very few indeed, my dear Brother, are in poſſeſſion of thoſe amiable endowments, that noble elevation of mind which dignifies human nature, and makes us ſuperior to all thoſe little jealouſies and rivalſhips, that ſhoot up in the paths of common amities. Intereſt, I am ſorry to ſay, is the foundation of moſt friendſhips, which of conſequence ſubſiſt no longer than the intereſt itſelf; and from hence ariſe all thoſe little bickerings and animoſities that we ſee too frequently ſubſiſting in private families. I am not romancing,—would to God I were! Only look round you, and I am afraid you will find too many inſtances.

Have you never heard Brothers and Siſters, who ought to be the beſt and deareſt of friends,

complain of each other's unkindneſs? Yes:—But how do you reconcile this ſeeming contradiction?—The reaſon is plain! They are careleſs and indifferent in their behaviour to each other; they take no pains to pleaſe, and are not cautious enough in ſaying or doing what will give offence. Their freedoms border too much on that familiarity which is productive of contempt; neglect ſoon follows, and then, farewel domeſtic happineſs. Should the parents, inſtead of diſcouraging theſe civil broils and unnatural conteſts in their families, give ear to a little darling, a favourite, whom they give a manifeſt preference to, even to the prejudice of the reſt, there is no ſaying what may be the conſequence. As they grow up, their averſion increaſes; and the favourite, is, comparatively ſpeaking, a prime miniſter, and neceſſary to the reſt of the family, as the only probable channel of ſucceſs in application to the parent. And, ſhould they make an improper uſe of the confidence repoſed in them, what, from the want of parental affection on one ſide, and the ſubtilty of the child on the other, who has nothing, perhaps, but its own intereſt in view, a whole family are at variance. Should the injured party, thinking themſelves aggrieved, appeal to their parents, as is their duty, and natu-

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ral to think in this caſe they would, nature perverted, turns a deaf ear to all their petitions and remonſtrances; ſo that their hearts may be ſaid to be *hardened like the heart of Pharaoh:* Having diveſted themſelves of their parental feelings, every avenue is ſtopped of courſe, which might tend to ſet matters to rights, and bring about a ſpeedy and happy reconciliation when ſupported and influenced by their authority. When things are thus ſituated, the old proverb is upon the eve of being accompliſhed, *a houſe divided againſt itſelf cannot ſtand.*

Should you aſk what becomes of the author of all theſe cruel diſſentions? in anſwer, I can inform you, that I have known one or two inſtances in which they have ſucceeded for a ſeaſon; and triumphed in what you and I would conſider the indeliable marks of infamy and diſgrace. And where are their gains? Are they not graſping at a ſhadow for the ſubſtance? and do they not relinquiſh their peace of mind, and part with all the ſweet regards and tenderneſſes of life, which alone can render it deſirable? Happy they cannot be! that is impoſſible! however outwardly they may impoſe upon the world, and endeavour to keep up appearances. A ſelf-accuſing

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conſcience is its own tormentor, and will purſue them even to their pillow. When all are buried in the arms of ſleep, there thou wilt find them like the ill-omined bird of prey, awake, and on the watch; although the winds are huſh, and univerſal ſilence reigns, they will ſtart, and cry, "What noiſe is there!" ſo emphatical thoſe words, *The ſound of a ſhaken leaf ſhall chaſe them!*— Should their drouſy eye-lids, weary with watching, ſink into ſacred reſt, ſweet pleaſing ſleep, ſo ſalutary to others, has loſt her balmy influence, and has no charms for them. Imagination, ever wakeful, hovers round in viſions. Alarming dreams perplex their ſlumbers, and forbid repoſe. Fancy, ever on the wing, now takes her daring flight, ſpreads her alarming chart, and points to that *bourne from whence no traveller returns*. And ah! alas! methinks I ſee the ſoul, freed from its earthly fetters, ſtartle at itſelf; and, trembling on the brink, ſhudder at the thoughts of approaching diſſolution. One while fancy repreſents them as hanging pendant on a rock; and, graſping the pillow in agony, they no doubt conſider it as ſome friendly branch, which may help to preſerve, and break their fall; at others, that they are drowning in the ſea: and ſo ſtrong does imagination work, that they experience all the

the dreadful conflict between life and death, happineſs and miſery: convulſed and agonized with a thouſand dreadful apprehenſions at the paſt, and fearful for the future; panting, gaſping, dying, their haraſſed powers are weakened, both in mind and body; and ſleep, that reſtorer of bodily decay, inſtead of an auxiliary, proves their bane. They awake like one juſt newly eſcaped from ſhipwreck, who, though on ſhore, can ſcarce give credit to his ſenſes; thinks he feels his ears ſtill tingle, and hears the cries of drowning men. Such dreadful phantoms haunt the guilty mind!——And now the early cock ſalutes the morn, and hails approaching day.—Glad ſummons! happy ſight, to thoſe who call it ſolitude to be alone! What then muſt they feel, who, racked with a thouſand dreadful apprehenſions, ſtartle at their ſhadow like the timorous fawn? *'Tis conſcience, my Brother, that makes cowards of us all.* Now mark their rout: Let us ſee what change the day has made!——Dreſſed in the garb of innocence, they iſſue forth to meet their brethren, and falling on their necks with well-diſſembled tears, like the treacherous Judas, *greet them with a kiſs.* Ye hypocrites!—to betray your brethren, ye deceive yourſelves; and to impoſe

upon

upon the world, ye trifle with your God!—This may anſwer their purpoſe, as I obſerved before, for a ſeaſon, but the beſt concerted plans, my dear Brother, that are not founded on virtuous principles, will defeat themſelves: Righteous Vengeance, though it may ſuffer them for a time, will purſue their crimes at laſt; and, by rendering all their deep-laid ſchemes abortive, ſhew an unthinking world, who ſee things obſcure and darkly, that in the end they are loſt themſelves who wiſh to build their happineſs on the ruin of their friends. When they can keep up the farce no longer, I have known them, as it were, turn reprobate, defy the world, glory in their ſhame, and retire to their ſtrong holds, as though their houſe were built upon a rock, and would endure for ever,—ſmiling, and exulting at the thoughts of their ſuperior cunning: But then, thoſe ſmiles are not the ſmiles of innocence; but like thoſe which Milton ſo inimitably deſcribes, when ſpeaking of the apoſtate arch-angel at the fall of man.

Ah, my Brother! do not you feel the ſilent tear ſteal down your manly cheek, when but for a moment you think on the horrors of ſuch a ſituation? Surely virtue and vice can never agree; diſap-

diſappointed love will turn to hatred; ſcornful looks, abuſe, and ſnarling meals ſucceed: In ſhort, all the endearments of ſocial life are fled. Ah, direful change! outrage and inſult now take place of love; and, as if deſirous of rendering the character compleat, the brother or ſiſter, now no more, ridicule thoſe very tears which their unnatural conduct has cauſed to flow.—I will drop this ſubject; leaſt it ſhould too much depreſs you, and although truth, on a juſt obſervation, it may leave reflections not very pleaſing.—Therefore, aſſuring you of my unalterable love, make haſte to ſubſcribe myſelf

Your affectionate Brother,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER III.

*A gen'rous Friendſhip no cold Medium knows,*
*Burns with one Love, with one Reſentment glows;*
*One ſhould our Int'reſts, and our Paſſions be;*
*My Friend muſt hate the Man who injures me.* POPE.

DEAR JACK,

IN recommending you to the choice of a friend, I would have you take particular notice how he behaves in his reſentments; and not imagine, as ſome people do, that the beſt friends make the bitterest enemies: For I am firmly perſuaded, that the perſon who is capable of being a bitter enemy, can never poſſeſs thoſe neceſſary virtues which conſtitute a real and true friend. Muſt he not want generoſity, that moſt eſſential principle of amicable combination, who can be ſo mean as to indulge a ſpirit of *ſettled* revenge, and cooly triumph in the oppreſſions of an adverſary? There is no circumſtance in the character of the excellent *Agricola*, that gives me a

higher notion of the true heroiſm of his mind, than what the hiſtorian of his life mentions concerning his conduct in this particular inſtance. "His elevated ſpirit was two great to ſuffer his reſentment to ſurvive the occaſion of it; and thoſe who provoked his indignation had nothing to apprehend from the *ſecret* and ſilent workings of unextinguiſhed malace." But the practice of the world, perhaps I might have ſaid principle too, runs ſtrongly in favour of the contrary diſpoſition; and thus in oppoſition to that generous ſentiment of your admired Orator, which I have ſo often heard you quote with applauſe, "Our friendſhips are mortal, whilſt our enmities never die."

But though judgment muſt collect the materials of this goodly ſtructure, it is affection gives the cement: Paſſion, as well as reaſon, ſhould concur in forming a laſting coalition. Hence, perhaps, it is, that not only the moſt powerful, but the moſt laſting friendſhips, are uſually the produce of the early ſeaſon of our lives; when we are moſt ſuſceptable of warm and affectionate impreſſions. The connections into which we enter at an after-period, decreaſe in ſtrength as our paſſions abate in heat; and there is not, I be-

believe, a ſingle inſtance of vigorous friendſhip, that ever ſtruck root in a boſom chilled by years. How irretrievable then is the loſs of thoſe beſt and faireſt acquiſitions of our youth! *Seneca*, taking notice of Auguſtus Cæſar's lamenting, upon a certain occaſion, the death of *Mæcenas* and *Agrippa*, obſerves, That he who could inſtantly repair the deſtruction of whole fleets and armies, and bid *Rome*, after a general conflagration, riſe out of her aſhes, even with more luſtre than before, was yet unable, during a whole life, to fill up thoſe laſting vacancies in his friendſhip:—A reflection which reminds me of renewing my ſolicitations, that you would be more cautious of hazarding a life I have ſo much reaſon to love and eſteem: For whenever an accident of the ſame kind ſhall ſeparate (and what other accident can ſeparate the happy union which has ſubſiſted between us from our infancy?) where ſhall I retrieve ſo ſevere a loſs? I am utterly indiſpoſed to enter into new habitudes, and extend the little circle of my friendſhips; happy if I may but preſerve it firm and unbroken to the cloſing moment of my life!

Perhaps you will think I am writing in too ſerious a ſtile,—but as I am not in ſpirits at pre-

ſent,

ſent, I hope you will excuſe me. There is no friendſhip in an airy light diſcourſe; though you know I am rather an enemy to gravity, and often from that motive am cheerful, when in reality my heart is otherwiſe diſpoſed. An outward appearance is ſometimes neceſſary, yet, I would have you practiſe it as little as poſſible; becauſe it is often dangerous, and may hurt you in the opinion of the worthy part of mankind.

I flatter myſelf you do not think I arrogate any degree of conſequence on account of my coming into the world a few years before you, particularly, after what has paſſed between us on that ſubject. Therefore, if I have ſaid more than is agreeable, impute it to an over-care, an officiouſneſs which proceeds from exceſs of kindneſs.

If you have any thing to offer in return, by way of advice to me, I will follow it as near as I can, and beg you will ſpeak openly, as by that means I ſhall be convinced you have not forgot

Your affectionate brother,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER IV.

Tu dum tua navis in alto est hoc age. HORACE.

*Think, Sailors, think, though Landman are your Hate,*
*Who like a mere Tarpaulin but his Mate?*

DEAR JACK,

I DID not expect, from the contrary winds, and the changeable weather that we have had in this quarter, that your last voyage could have been either so favourable or expeditious.—I intend this letter as an answer to the one I before received from you: Although I have had the pleasure of your company since you wrote to me, I did not chuse to make a verbal reply, epistolary justice requiring I should repay you in kind.

I can now, with more ease, thank you for the favorable opinion you have of me; and my great regard for you made me receive, with pleasure, the account of the inoffensive manner in which

which you employed your leiſure hours, and a peculiarity of your religious ſentiments and behaviour.

Our Profeſſion has often been remarked for want of the rational principles of Religion; yet it muſt be allowed, that there are many prudent and virtuous men amongſt us, who are ſorry for that immoral behaviour which has given grounds for this reflection.

I hope my Brother will have ſenſe and reſolution to copy only ſuch characters as are worth imitating; by which you will diſtinguiſh yourſelf from the ordinary claſs of navigators, eſpecially by guarding againſt that foul practice of ſwearing. A vice as ſenſeleſs as illiberal;—unbecoming both the gentleman and the Chriſtian, a diſhonour to the rational part of man,—which can be as well performed by the coward as the brave, by a peaſant as by a Lord.

It is a general obſervation, that example is followed more than precept; admitting this, I am ſorry to ſay my experience in the ſea-line furniſhes me with too many inſtances. I have

inſerted one for your peruſal, and have given it the preference to a great many others; as I think it more immediately points out this ſilly inſignificant vice in that ridiculous point of view I wiſh you to ſee it.

A dignified clergyman, whoſe name, for a particular reaſon, I ſhall forbear mentioning, being appointed chaplain to a man of war, found his ſituation particularly diſagreeable, on account of the faſhionable mode of ſwearing, ſo prevalent amongſt the officers. At firſt he began mildly to remonſtrate with them on the impropriety of ſuch conduct, particularly in his company, whoſe immediate duty it was (he ſaid) not tamely to hear, but boldly to reprove them for (not to place it in a more criminal light) the wanton indecency of their language in the preſence of a clergyman; "For (ſays he) although a contrary behaviour on my part might put you under leſs reſtraint, yet as you are gentlemen by profeſſion, character and education, I have too good an opinion of you, notwithſtanding the preſent levity of your carriage, not to be aſſured, if I did ſo, that you would be the firſt to complain of me." This was a very pointed, and yet a delicate reproof;

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and it grieves me to think it met with no better return than redicule. This, no doubt, would chagrin the Doctor, although he took no notice of it. I have ſo much of human nature about me as to think no man of ſenſibility could brook with ſuch perſonal indignities without reſentment; however, with the Doctor, I am convinced they vaniſhed on ſecond thoughts. He was a man whoſe amiable conduct added dignity to his profeſſion: He ſaw and felt for all: And, as a proof of his philanthropy, inſtead of being diſmayed on his firſt repulſe, it rather encouraged him to make a ſecond attempt. He had already tried the ſtrength of the enemy; and their being ſupported by numbers, he was ſenſible, would be a great diſadvantage to him; "But (added he, jocularly) I will rally my forces; and, by altering the mode of attack, and fighting them with their own weapons, try if I cannot out-general them." The Tueſday following, at the celebration of the king's birth-day, an opportunity preſented itſelf highly favourable to his wiſhes. After ſupper, by way of keeping up the converſation, each told a diverting ſtory; which the Doctor declared would have been very entertaining, had they not been interlarded every now and then

then with *d—mme*, *bl—d and z—ns*, &c. this paſſed apparently unnoticed, and as it now came to the Doctor's turn in the line of rotation, he very politely complied with the requeſt of the company without heſitating; it being a rule with him, never to be aſked twice, provided the compliance was harmleſs and innocent, and every way conſiſtent with the dignity of his calling: The ſtory he gave them was calculated for the purpoſe. Inſtead of the epithets above-mentioned, he introduced (in the ſelf-ſame manner, which had to the full as much meaning, though a far leſs criminal one) *bottle*, *pot*, and *glaſs!* This, they not gueſſing the Doctor's drift, ſet the riſible muſcles a tickling all round the table, which certainly would not have been the caſe, had they conſidered, that in fact they were laughing at themſelves; but be that as it may, their general knowledge of the Doctor by this time, had impreſſed a kind of reverential awe, which prevented their being ſo rude as to interrupt him in his ſtory, particularly as he had been ſo kind as to pay due attention to theirs, which, I think I need not ſay, was a little more exceptionable: He had ſcarcely got to the end, when, ſetting aſide all punctilios, as if by general conſent, they one and all burſt out into

a loud peal of laughter! This was what the Doctor expected;—and immediately assuming an air of severity, with a look at once expressive of pity and contempt, remained quite silent: When their noisy mirth began to subside, the first Lieutenant, being a man of more discretion than the rest, very politely thanked the Doctor, in the name of the company: "And, in regard to myself, Sir (says he) I sincerely ask your pardon for such an unwarrantable trespass on good manners; but I hope you will excuse my rudeness; for, had you given me the universe, I must say I could not *avoid* it; for, excepting to drink when you are thirsty, I cannot conceive for the life of me what you had to do with *bottle*, *pot*, and *glass*; and, with all due submission to your superior judgment, I cannot see the least connection they have with your story."

The Doctor very calmly replied; "Gentlemen, I see you can observe what is ridiculous in me, without remarking it in yourselves:—And, in answer to your question, Sir, I must inform you, that I think I have as great right to use my expletives as you have to use yours."

O ho!

O ho! Doctor, cried they; we ſmoke you:—You are thereabouts then, are you? You ſhall never hear us ſwear any more in your company.—Nor did they.

I ſhall make no comments on this ſubject, but leave you to draw what inferences you think proper; as I am well convinced you are not deficient in point of underſtanding, though a novice in regard to experience. All I have to do is, to awaken your feelings, and leave you to your own reflections.

The news I have is too trifling for notice. Our Siſter *Harriot* has an indiſpenſable engagement, and begs her excuſe. She is a fine girl, and loves you as well as I do, which is no ſmall reaſon for my liking her.

God bleſs you, my dear Jack;—a bleſſing is a very good thing, let me tell you; and good wiſhes very agreeable additions to it:—all which you have moſt heartily from

Yours affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER V.

Nimium risus pretium est si probitatis impendio constat.
QUINTIL.

*Laughter is bought too dear if it be at the Expence of our Veracity.*

DEAR JACK,

I RECEIVED your very agreeable letter, dated Bourdeaux, May the 12th, and which I think I need not say, made all your friends here very happy. I had some doubts concerning your welfare, but your letter is a convincing proof they were quite unnecessary; however, would have you neglect no opportunity of writing, though it were only to inform me of your health; I am sure you would, if you knew with what pleasure I receive it.—The relation you gave of your adventure at Bourdeaux was highly entertaining: I cannot help smiling when I think of it, particularly as you came off with flying colours; though, at the same time I felt a degree of pain, occasioned by your getting

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ſo inadvertently into ſuch a dilemma. I would have you more cautious in future how you proceed amongſt ſtrangers; in order to avoid giving offence, would recommend to you at leiſure hours, to endeavour to make yourſelf acquainted with the police, manners, and cuſtoms of the country. You have every advantage you could wiſh, and ſpeak the French tongue tolerably well. If you will wait upon *Monſieur Savage*, the Engliſh broker, with my compliments, and let him know that you are my brother, I flatter myſelf he will not only ſatisfy you in any queſtions you may pleaſe to aſk him, but give you a hearty welcome, and very cordial treatment.—So much by way of anſwer to your letter.

Shall now, according to promiſe, ſpeak of our profeſſion, and ſet before you ſome peculiarities of behaviour with which my long acquaintance with thoſe of our order has furniſhed me;—not vices, but foibles;—not what makes men odious, but ridiculous. I have frequently obſerved in ſea-faring perſons, that when they have occaſion in their ordinary diſcourſe to exert themſelves, they ſpeak in a ſtrange *rumbling* tone of voice; which I can compare to nothing ſo well as the

giving

growling of a maſtiff. Whether this peculiar way of managing their voice is in imitation of that animal, to make the inferior tribe beſtir their limbs for fear of conſequences; or whether it was thought neceſſary by experienced maſters to add this extraordinary weight to their words, in order to make the deeper impreſſion on the ſenſes of thoſe under authority,—I am not able to determine. It is a mode I am perfectly unacquainted with, and never adopted, although I have had an hundred brave fellows at a time under my command;—and it is but reaſonable to ſuppoſe, as it was in my view, I would have had recourſe to it had I thought it expedient: However this I can aſſure you of, that the good folks on *terra firma* will not allow it to have any efficacy there, except that of ſhewing the ſimplicity of the perſon who uſes it; on which account I ſhould think it more reputable and convenient, for all captains and officers to leave it in their cabbins when they leave their ſhips.

Another peculiarity in navigators, is their uſing *ſea*-phraſes when out of *that* element; for inſtance, if a ſailor wants a tooth drawn, he tells the Dentiſt, "It is the aftmoſt grinder on the ſtarboard quarter of the upper tier," and the

operator not underſtanding this language, ten thouſand to one, pulls him out a ſound tooth inſtead of a decayed one. I met with a very humorous circumſtance in this way the other day;—calling upon our friend Mr H—p in Dockwray-Square, his ſon George, a youth about twelve or thirteen years of age, was complaining to his father of having a ſevere tooth-ache, upon which the ſurgeon was ſent for; and he recommending him to have it pulled out, the youth anſwered very ſmartly, he had no objections, provided there was not a hazard of the *whole tier going adrift.*—If a ſailor's horſe carry him full ſpeed, he bears away with a full gale;—if he ſtop at a public houſe to get a pint of ale, he caſts anchor in ſuch a place:—But, *a propos*, I will give you a ſtriking example in *Tom Meanwell*, your old acquaintance, who was educated and brought up at the ſame ſchool with you, and has juſt returned from the Weſt Indies. He has been abroad upwards of five years, and has been ſo fortunate as to ſignalize himſelf in ſuch a manner as to procure a Lieutenancy in the Navy; which is a very honourable poſt. His friends here were delighted at the thoughts of his paying them a viſit; and, by way of expreſſing their joy on the occaſion, invited your brother amongſt

the

reſt to welcome him. I was then engaged, and could not go till about a week afterwards; and when I went to pay my reſpects, found him ſeated in a corner of the room *tête à tête* with ſome country ladies: I went up to ſalute him with a hearty ſhake of the hand, as is uſual with us ſea-faring folks; when, to my great ſurprize and confuſion, he jumps up in a great hurry, and roars out, like a *horſe boatſwain*, "Avaſt! avaſt!—doeſt not ſee I'm hove down?" then, giving me the wink, and looking ſomewhat archly, cried out in a ſofter tone, "careening only though, meſmate;" when I unluckily, not immediately underſtanding him, graſped his hand ſtill cloſer, as a mark of my greater joy at ſeeing him; which, to my no ſmall aſtoniſhment, ſet him a capering about the room in ſuch a frantic manner, as made me verily believe the man was mad; eſpecially as he could not articulate ſo as to be underſtood; although he ſpoke loud enough to bring all the boys and girls in the village about us. What I could make out was, "Od's-nickers! con-fuſion!" and with a twiſt of his mouth, from which dropped a large quid of tobacco, his features greatly diſtorted, and ſeemingly in great pain and agony, produced at intervals, the interjection *O!* very diſtinctly.

At laſt, the frantic fit being over, juſt as I was going to recommend the ſtrait jacket, *Tom* looking wiſtfully in my face, and ſhrugging up his ſhoulders, after a few wry faces, exclaimed, "Excuſe me, meſmate; but let me tell you I do not thank you for having clapped me alongſide; and may I never crack another biſcuit, if I don't think you have twiſted the ſcarf off my keel; and though mayhap you or another, might take her for a hulk, as ſhe is hove down for a few repairs, do you ſee, yet I'll pawn my head for a braſs farthing, ſhe is little or nothing the worſe for wear: and I would not have you haul too much on that rope, brother officer, leſt you and I come to logger-heads, my boy." Not knowing what I had done to offend Mr *Meanwell*, I ſtared like a conjurer: what added greatly to my uneaſineſs, and rendered my ſituation, if poſſible, ſtill more awkward, was the apparent diſpleaſure of the company; particularly Mrs *Tabitha*, his maiden ſiſter, who, being rather too officious during her dear brother's delirium, had received the contents (the chaw of tobacco as before-mentioned) on a fine white damaſk gown; which I think I need not ſay, looked ludicrous enough; and had not this bluſtering ſon of Neptune frightened me out of my five ſenſes,

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in my conſcience I believe I could have been ill-natured enough to have laughed moſt heartily: I muſt own it would have been rather a little unſeaſonable, on more accounts than one, as my friend *Tom* was at this very time roaring out in great agony, and biting his lip with excruciating torture. You may be ſure, after what had paſſed, I kept at a convenient diſtance, as I had poſſeſſed myſelf the man was mad; however, when I ſaw his features begin to dilate a little, and to wear their natural aſpect, and he being ſeated once more in the elbow chair, I ventured to ſtep up to him, and with faultering accent began to enquire into the cauſe of his uneaſineſs, and to aſk what offence I could ſo undeſignedly have given him? "As to that, ſhipmate," ſays he, as ſoon as he could make reply, the tears ſtanding in his honeſt eyes, notwithſtanding the bluntneſs of his viſage; "I give thee a diſcharge in full, my boy!—I had no ſignal out, you know; then how, in the name of wonder, was you obliged to know that I was in diſtreſs?—the *union* downwards, my boy, would!—" here he had another ſevere twich, when reſuming his diſcourſe, "Prithee bring thine a—ſe to an anchor (ſays he) and I'll tell thee how I came by this curſt confound-

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ed accident;" when I, drawing a chair and ſitting down by Mr *Meanwell*, he proceeded as follows:—

"It was but a week of days, ſetting aſide Sundays, look ye, that I left the *Buckingham*, and cam down to ſee Father; when he, out of ſheer love and kindneſs, axed me to take a voyage a hunting with him. I had no great likings for ſuch kind of ſport, do you ſee; howſomever, as the wind was, I boarded a tight little frigate, called the *Farmer's Glory*, and clapping myſelf athwart ſhips *thus in* (alluding to his manner of getting aſtride his horſe, though I obſerved he lifted the wrong leg firſt) and keeping a ſharp look out on the forecaſtle, mind ye, I ſpied a hare at anchor; when ſhe getting underway, and clapping upon a wind with her larboard tacks aboard, ſteering I think it might be about weſt, or weſt-and-by-north, and that way, as nigh as I can gueſs: howſomever it was not long before ſhe rounded in her weather-braces, and kept away a point or two, the *Farmer's Glory* about a cable's length aſtern, crouding on her all a-tanto, with a flowing ſheet; when beginning to look black from the ſouth, ſouth-ſouth-weſt, and that way, I hauled my wind, and

kept

kept her up a little, as I was detarmin'd, if poſſible, to keep the weather-gage; and though I had all trim'd ſharp upon a bowling, yet I obſarv'd ſhe was not ſo weatherly as the *Buckingham*, for ſhe ſwagg'd to leeward moſt confoundedly; and not knowing as how the land lay, and having ne'er a chart or compaſs to ſteer by, juſt as I was within hail, meeting with ſome overfalls, the *Farmer's Glory* came bump aſhore upon a ſtone; pitching hard, the bobſtay broke, ſhe taking a weather coil, ſlap went all aback in a twinkling; and having ſuch expreſs ſail on her, you may be ſure ſhe made all ſneer again:—Being afloat abaft, and hanging forward, ſhe ſwung right round, and layed her broadſide to the beach; and being amongſt the broken water, mind ye, a ſea took her, and made a clean ſweep fore and aft,—ſmack ſmooth, by Jove!—Away went maſts and rigging by the board, and before thou couldſt ſay *Jack Robinſon* waſhed me, who was holding on by the forecaſtle bits, over the ſtarboard bow,—damaged my head-rails and bowſprit, broke two ſuttocks, ſplinter'd my keel, ſlit the bark off my ſhins, and unſhipped my ſhoulder;—which, by the bye, meſmate, I wiſh thou hadſt known, as well as

thou

thou madſt me feel :—But the Divil fetch me if e'er they catch me a land privateering again."

This curious harangue of my friend *Tom*, which ſet me to rights a little, though not at all underſtood by the reſt of the company, had the ſame happy effect however, as it reſtored us to perfect harmony. The country 'ſquires, and their ladies, who, by the bye, almoſt idolized him, on account of ſome ſlight wounds which he had received, and the miraculous ſtories he had told them of the manner in which he had got them, in his engagements with black people, who eat human fleſh, *&c.* ſhewed their ſecret approbation by a great horſe laugh. I being fairly acquitted by the captain, was at length received to their good graces, all except Mrs *Tabitha*, who, being reduced to the mortifying circumſtance of putting on a black ruſſel gown, and which, for ought I know, had belonged to her grandmother, not ſo much from the antiquity of the faſhion, as from its being ſo much the worſe for wear,—looked as if ſhe wiſhed me—God knows where. Here the Reverend Mr D—ke, and my friend Mr F——s, who had juſt come in at the latter part of the ſtory, ſhrugging up their ſhoulders, and giving

giving me a very ſignificant look, ſtared as if they had met with a phenomenon. The cream of the jeſt was yet to come; for Mr F——s, who you know is not a little given to waggery, and likes a joke perhaps as well as any man in England, addreſſing himſelf to his next neighbour, the laird of B——by hall, who I obſerved was all ears, and had grinned and laughed moſt intolerably during the recital, deſired he would be ſo good as inform him (though he was morally certain he knew nothing of the matter) what was the occaſion of their mirth, apologizing at the ſame time for his rudeneſs, and concluded by ſaying his gravity might be miſconſtrued by the company as a tacit reflection; and added, he was ready to join them with all his heart, and was ſorry the captain did not ſpeak in a language that ſuited his capacity: He accompanied this with an arch ſmile peculiar to himſelf, and the 'ſquire, not underſtanding rhetoric, his irony paſſed for a compliment on captain *Meanwell*; when addreſſing himſelf to Mr F——s, "I do not underſtand much of your long-tailed dictionary words, mind ye, but I can tell a ſtraight ſtory, for that matter, as weel as onny body; and if I heard right, you were talking of capacity;—why faith, friend, I'm pretty much in your way of

 thinking,

thinking,—I warrant ye you've hit the nail on the head there; the captain has not been in the far-abroads this monny years for nothing, let me tell ye; he can ſpeak au your outlandiſh lingoes as faſt as our Vicar can ſay his prayers;—no offence to you, Parſon, I hope." Here he made an awkward bow, ſaid, thank God he knew what manners was, though he had not been ſo lucky as to ſail the ſeas, and grinned ſelf-applauſe, as thinking perhaps, he had been a little witty at the expence of the clergy: Then addreſſing himſelf to the captain,—"Do now, my canny fellow, tell us ouer again how you cam off amang the gert ſtrapping wenches that had an eye in the middle of their forehead, you know, as big as a trencher, and ſhined like a light comet in a dark night;—or tip us a little of the lingo of the black fellows that was gaun to eat you;—do now oblige the gentlemen:" But the captain and I being cloſe engaged fighting over ſome ſea battles, which he was endeavouring to perſuade me could not poſſibly have miſcarried had he been the executing officer; which I ſincerely wiſh he had with all my heart, after ſuch a proof of his abilities (though I am ſorry to ſay, I am afraid it would have made very little alteration for the better). Being thus employed, it was not natural

tural to think the captain would relinquish the field of battle, until such time as he had gained a complete victory. I mention this by way of apology for his not returning an answer to what the 'squire had said to him:—"But its nee matter, continued the 'squire; for I see the captain's engaged with our neighbour there; I warrant ye its pratty discourse, if a body could but hear it:—but it's au yen to me;—draw your chairs a bit closer, and I'll tell you a story with a witness tid; for, by the Mess John, I'll ne'er forget it and Raw-head-and-bloody-bones, while I have breath in my body. Lord be mareiful to us!—but my hair stands up right an end when I think on't; and, seting aside the gheast I say last night in our stack-garth, with two gert sawcer een, as big and as bright as our muckle large howl pewter dishes, I think I never met with any thing in au my life that frightened me half so much." This curious introduction, notwithstanding the settled gravity of my friend D—ke, the Vicar of B——ton, brought a smile into his countenance; which the 'squire perceiving, and being much offended thereat, told him, it was as true as the gospel that he preached; and, added he, "You wad not grin that way, Parson, if ye were to hear the captain tell it:—Zooks, man, I could harken till doomsday, to hear him tell how they

put him into a large water-cask, and set him adrift upon the main sea ocean for upwards of nineteen days, and had nothing to live on all that time but the dregs of the water-cask, and one of the black fellow's fingers and thumbs, which the captain by good luck snapt off, when he put them in at the bung-hole." Here he paused; and Mr F——s, thinking he had finished, was going to reply; when the 'squire, with his usual politeness, clapped his sweaty paws across Mr F——s's mouth (which he declared to me afterwards stunk worse than a necessary) told him he had not done yet; and asked what he meant by not letting him tell his story out? Here I could not help taking notice of two or three of the countrymen who were at a little distance, and had made very long ears, perceiving they were rather out of the circle, drew in their chairs with great seeming apprehension; the reason of this I could not account for, although I saw fear very plainly depicted in their countenances. When the 'squire, resuming his discourse, addressing himself to the captain, asked, "Where abouts have I getten tee?" But the captain had arrived at that part of his story in which he had got the better of the French fleet, and exulting in the victory, was not to be interrupted at

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ſo interreſting a moment; which the 'ſquire perceiving, began a-ſcratching his head, and hammering at his ſkull, by way of helping his recollection; and exclaimed, after keeping us waiting in ſuſpence upwards of five minutes, with great vociferation, "O! to where ye had ſnapt off the black fellow's finger and thumb!—that's true:" (thinks I to myſelf its a confounded lie) "and then," continued he, "the Lord preſarve us! he was ſo angry with the captain, mind ye, that taking the caſk by the two chimes, not caring to truſt his other hand in at the bung-hole, threw the captain, caſk and au, into the gert main ſea ocean; and there he was toſſed about and about, twice as far as I can tell, and thrice as far as ye can tell, until at laſt, as God Almighty would have it, he was caſt aſhore in a place where there was nee inhabitants; and, by the Lord Harry, he muſt have been ſtarved to death, his provender being almoſt expended, if it had not been for a large white fox; which coming down to the water-ſide to flea himſelf, mind ye (for I underſtand they are troubled with theſe varmin as weel as we are) and ſeeing the caſk on dry land, thought, as luck would have it, that it would be a good thing to rub himſelf dry on his coming out of the water; when being a little friſky, and playing with his

tail

tail juſt over the bung-hole, the captain, no doubt glad of ſuch a chance, ſeeing ſomething whick, whips out his fiſt, and lays faſt had on't; when the fox, being frightened to deeth, as weel he mought (for had it been me I varily believe I had ne'er done well afterwards) ſet off like a race horſe, over hills and dales, hedges and ditches, till at lang laſt, as he was gaun ouer a huge rock, for ought I knaw, as big and as large as the Devil's-a—ſe-a-peak, in Darbyſhire, his foot ſlipt, down cam he, caſk and au, with ſuch a ſoſerrero, that 'tis a marracle to me the captain was not killed alive on the ſpot;—and though he cam off with whole bones, the caſk was au ſhivered to bits, and though the fox had a devil of a tumble, he only brak his neck, and his hinder leg; and the only thing, o' my conſcience, I blame the captain for, was killing poor Renny the fox, and eating him, after doing him ſuch a ſignal piece of ſarvice; though he declared to me, when I ſaid ſee, that he was as hungry as a hound, and that the laſt meal of victuals he had was the black fellow's thumb nail, ſo that you may be ſartin it was ſheer neceſſity; and hunger, they ſay, neighbours, has nee law, and needs nee ſauce. And here's ſome of his bones (added he, putting his hand in his pocket,

pocket, and pulling them out) which the captain was mindful enough to pocket after he had eat the carcase;—look at them (says he)—ye may au see them as weel as me. What think ye now Vicar? ye wad not believe at first (nor last either, thinks I); here, (continued he, exulting and holding them up) is proof-positive, do you see;—a receipt in full, by the Lord Harry." Here the 'squire ending, and nobody thinking it worth their while to contradict him, the subject taking a turn on fox hunting, became a little more general; excepting indeed a remark made by a judicious countryman, who could not help wondering, he said, how so small a creature as a fox could drag the captain, who was a man of no very small bulk and stature, through such a vast tract of country, perhaps some thousand miles, for ought he knew, in a water-butt. Here the captain's honour being piqued, he rose in a great passion, d——d him for a land-lubber, said he was not fit to carry guts to a bear; and that if he had him on board a ship with him he would heave the log with him, and be d——d to him; and that if he was such an ignorant swab as not to know that the foxes abroad were as large and as strong as a keylie, there were others that did: "And you, says he, looking scornfully

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on him, pretend to ſet up your ſaucy jaw to me, ye gooſe ye! you who has never been ſo much as out of the ſmoke of your mother's chimney? No no, none of your tricks upon travellers, looby: I've ſailed for it, by Jove, let me tell you; and did not come here to be catachiſed by a freſh-water ſpaniel." Here the countryman turned as white as a ſheet, begged ten thouſand pardons; ſaid, he hoped his honour was not offended, for that really and truly he meant no harm, and thought as how, he was only aſking a civil queſtion, or ſo; and the captain, being good-natured enough when nobody contradicted, or doubted his veracity, was eaſily perſuaded to accept his ſubmiſſions: ſo that at length peace was happily reſtored to the company. Looking round me, I miſſed the Vicar, who had decamped, it ſeems, at the beginning of the fray; and in a corner of the room I perceived my friend F——s, who was biting his lip to prevent his laughing aloud; when going up to him and pulling him by the ſleeve, he recovered himſelf ſo far as to thank the 'ſquire for (whiſpering me) *lying ſo confoundedly*; which he not hearing, and taking what my friend ſaid to him in good part, declared, it was very aſtoniſhing; "and between you and I," ſays he, adjuſting his wig with a very

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consequential look, "it has been the means of several miscarriages in this neighbourhood;" and was going to give us a second part of the same tune, about a number of the captain's companions being fattened up with rice, by the cannibals, and roasted alive on a spit; with many other curious particulars, too tedious to mention;—when my friend F——s, no doubt heartily tired as well as myself, rose and took his leave; as did your humble servant, it growing rather late in the evening; leaving the good company to enjoy the wonderful account of the captain's further peregrinations: and, had you heard our remarks as we journeyed on the road, I am sure you would not have envied Captain *Meanwell* the place he had in our esteem.

I need not point out to you, my dear Brother, the particulars of our conversation, the folly of it is sufficiently seen in the sequel; and I should never have been inclined to think, without auricular demonstration, that in the island of Great Britain, so famous for its *literati*, there could be such rude and uncultivated people, who give credit to stories so wonderful in themselves, as not to have even the least shadow, or smallest degree of probability to recommend them: But

ſuch is the prejudice of education in theſe illiterate countrymen, that they will gape and ſwallow any thing. In ſhort, nothing but things of this ſort will go down with them; not but that there are, as in moſt other caſes, a great many exceptions; and I am happy to ſay, I have the pleaſure of being acquainted with a few of them, who would laugh at their folly, as much as ourſelves.

I hope you will not think me ſevere in my reflections, as few men have a higher regard for mankind in general than your Brother; nor ſhould I have troubled theſe good folks in the country, but left them to their own innocence, and native ſimplicity, had not it been for our neighbour, Captain *Meanwell*, who introduced them.

I would not have you miſtake me, Jack, when I ſpeak in regard to the technical terms, which appeared ſo ridiculous in Lieutenant *Meanwell*: it was the application, time, and place that I quarrel with him for; as in the line of duty I am convinced they are too ſignificant to be aboliſhed; and am perfectly ſatisfied there is not another ſet of words that could anſwer our pur-

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poſe ſo well. Our peculiar manner of ſpeaking too, I allow to be both neceſſary, and proper, when circumſcribed within the limits of the ſhip; but when introduced into the common converſation of the world, to which we are ſo remote, are deemed abſurd, and ridiculous, and always conſidered by ſenſible people, as the certain effect of affectation or ignorance; either of which when made manifeſt, are capable of producing no other ſentiments than thoſe of ridicule: for which reaſon, I would recommend you to avoid theſe peculiarities; by which means you will diſtinguiſh yourſelf as a perſon who has had a generous and liberal education, and allied to parents who poſſeſs a creditable rank in life.

I might have offered to you ſomething of more importance, but, for a particular reaſon, chuſe rather to divert you with theſe common ſlight obſervations; which I deſire you to conſider not in the form of advice, ſo much as matter of opinion what may, or may not be, fair, and reaſonable. I will give you an excellent rule whereby to determine the juſtneſs of ſuch like reflections: If, on experience, you find yourſelf diſpoſed to laugh at a man when he is talking

or acting in ſuch or ſuch a manner, then you may be ſure his words and actions are inconſiſtent with truth and common ſenſe;—if not, then I think you have an excellent reaſon to laugh at the perſon who makes them.

*Harriot* writes next poſt, and remember you owe me an account of your health and welfare.

I remain, with great truth and ſincerity,

Your's affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER VI.

*—Quoth* HUDIBRAS, *The Caſe is clear,*
*As thou haſt prov'd it by their Practice*
*No Argument like Matter of Fact is;*
*And we are beſt of all led to*
*Mens Principles by what they do.*

DEAR JACK,

MANY thanks to you, my dear Brother, for your two laſt kind letters. I receive them as proofs of your love and affection for me, and cannot help thinking myſelf peculiarly happy in having ſuch an uſeful and agreeable correſpondent. I never harboured an unkind notion of you; and *Harriot* repreſented a little ſurpriſe of mine at not hearing from you, as a declaration of unkind ſuſpicion, which I aſſure you I never entertained of you; beſides, if the truth was known, I dare ſay, it was her intention when ſhe wrote to you in this ſtrange manner about me, that I ſhould have an immediate Letter, and ſhe, a ſly rogue, an Anſwer into the bargain.

bargain. Your long abſence I find has awakened all the nicer feelings: It has its virtues, and, believe me, is not without its uſe; and, therefore, inſtead of preaching up conſolation, I would have you indulge the feelings of fraternal love. Abſence, my dear Brother, teaches us to ſet a proper value on our friends, ſtirs up all the man within us, humanizes the heart, and, by affecting it in the tendereſt part, points out reſignation to the will of Providence. I am convinced, from your manner of writing, that you already experience this grand truth in part; time will perfect it;—and, when that Power who rules the ways of men ſhall reſtore you to your family and friends, my heart anticipates the joy we ſhall have at our happy meeting. Alas! too happy to be laſting. So cruelly ſeparated from their friends are Neptune's ſons! But why ſhould I repine? It is beneath the man who ſtiles himſelf a Chriſtian. But ah, my Brother! where is that man who can without a ſigh reſign what he holds ſo dear to him on earth? A ſevere ſacrifice, and yet it muſt be ſo! Who then would be ſailors? I had almoſt ſaid I thought none ought to be, except thoſe whoſe hearts are ſteeled againſt the tender ties of nature and affection: But I am writing now to indulge my own humour, and

had

had almoſt forgot my promiſe.—I gave you in my laſt a ſea picture (or a deſcription of a tar out of his element) and think I ought now, in common juſtice, to point out a line of conduct by way of a directory; as it is as neceſſary you ſhould know the amiable part of our profeſſion to imitate, as to be acquainted with their foibles to avoid them.

The character I mean to give you is quite a contraſt to Lieutenant *Meanwell;* and, as it is drawn from real, *not ideal* life, I flatter myſelf it requires no other recommendation to your peruſal. I can aſſure you, with a great deal of pleaſure and ſatisfaction, that if you do but follow the out-line I am going to give you of this gentleman's character and conduct, I ſhall have the happineſs of ſeeing you the accompliſhed gentleman; as well as the ſkilful and experienced ſeaman. And ſure, it will give you abundance of pleaſure on reflection, to find yourſelf as much reſpected on ſhore as on board.

It is a miſtaken notion with a great many parents, that if a lad is *good for nothing*, or in other words, that he is not ſo tractable perhaps as ſome of the pretty little maſters his brothers, who

would

would ſpend as much time in adjuſting a curl, as he would in dreſſing himſelf; the good folks at home finding him ſo unpromiſing, as they are pleaſed to term it, will tell their neighbours, over a diſh of tea, with a great deal of gravity, that they certainly muſt be under the diſagreeable neceſſity of ſending maſter *Tommy* to ſea, as they find it impoſſible to learn him to hold up his head, and turn out his toes; which, by the bye, is paying us ſea-faring gentlemen a very indifferent complement, it being as much as to ſay, *the ſea and the gallows refuſe none.* If they mean that this ſon of theirs ſhould always remain in a menial capacity, indeed I agree with them; and grant you, that health, youth, and ſtrength are ſufficient recommendations to maſter *Tommy*; and they have my thanks for being at the pains to provide the community with ſuch uſeful members. It is all the ſame to his officers, whether he can read or write; and as they want none of his knowledge, it is a thouſand to one if they aſk him the queſtion. It being ſufficient to them that he behaves orderly and decently; and if not, a cat-o'-nine-tails never fails to bring him to his ſenſes. It is his own loſs principally, poor young fellow; and, ſeriouſly ſpeaking, I think ſuch kind of parents have

a great

a great deal to anſwer for. I am not ſo partial to my profeſſion as to recommend a ſea life by way of accademy: And as I would not wiſh to be thought behind-hand in point of good manners, in return to his good *Papa* and *Mama* for their politeneſs, I would have them to recollect a moment, and conſider they might not ſleep ſo ſound in their beds (however ſlightly they may ſpeak of our profeſſion) if it was not for ſome ſeamen of ſuperior abilities and underſtanding to themſelves; it is more than probable they might be, at this moment, labouring under the tyrannical yoke of the infernal inquiſition.

But this is digreſſing, and ſtraying from my ſubject. As my intention at preſent is to paſs over the uſual forms of promotion, it being a matter that cannot be any way intereſting to you, who has experienced, and practiſes it daily, ſhall only recommend an amiable conduct as neceſſary in all ſtations; and juſt hint, that there are ſome of our moſt diſtinguiſhed characters who have riſen from a common Tar to an Admiral. And now, according to my promiſe, ſhall place my captain on his quarter-deck; in which capacity, I do not know a ſituation that requires greater talents, in order to qualify him to fill

that important ſtation with dignity and propriety. It is not ſufficient that he is a good ſeaman; every man who knows his buſineſs would then have equal merit. I would have him, as he is *amphibious*, a good landſman, and a gentleman too: believe me, Jack, they are no way incompatable; and a man may be all three, and yet not a prodigy.—But, to my purpoſe:—I will ſuppoſe him then properly qualified as a ſeaman, and officer; as having gone through all the different ſtages with credit and honour to himſelf; with a proper knowledge of the mathematics, uſe of the globes, maps, charts, &c. and ſo far maſter of aſtronomy as relates to navigation; in order to enable him to determine, with preciſion, the names of the principal ſtars; and acquainted with the celeſtial bodies in general, as to be able to apply them to uſe in the new-invented method of finding the longitude at ſea, by lunar obſervations; thereby correcting the common methods of keeping the ſea journal, liable to ſo many errors in long and tedious voyages. This granted, I will treat of his behaviour on ſhore, in regard to what conſtitutes the gentleman, &c. and then ſhip him off, full freighted with all his accompliſhments, to regulate the *wooden world*.—Remember, I give you the

the character of Captain *Clements*, as the pattern which I design for your imitation; a gentleman whom you know I have had the happiness to sail with in the East India service. Though perhaps you may never arrive at so important a station, yet it is good to look forward; and, comparing smaller things with greater, a man may have equal merit in the command of a small ship as a large one. In the first place, he was a tender affectionate husband, a kind parent, and an indulgent master; therefore, it is no wonder that he had the love and esteem of his family, as well as the good wishes of all those employed under him. He was not in the least tinctured with jealousy: he allowed his wife every reasonable liberty, and indulged her in every rational amusement; and I have heard the captain remark, that it behoved every man to be particularly careful in his choice of a wife, as on that principally depended his future happiness or misery: But then, added he, "This choice once made, adieu to all reserve; and if you wish to engage and preserve her affections,

Be to her faults a little blind,
To her virtues ever kind;
Let all her ways be unconfin'd,
And clap the padlock on the mind."

In ſhort, he was a great favourite with the ladies in general, and had all thoſe little accompliſhments and endearing qualities ſo neceſſary in converſation with the ſofter ſex. I have heard him frequently declare, that he was indebted to them for the moſt innocent and inoffenſive ideas that he was poſſeſſed of; and uſed to call his converſation with them, one of the ſweetners of life. As he would not wiſh to be thought ſingular, he obſerved an agreeable mediocrity; paid a proper attention to dreſs without being a coxcomb, and was a courtier without parting with his ſincerity. He conſidered politeneſs, compliments, &c. as a kind of current coin; and it was a remark of his, that without them a man might as well go to market with only gold in his pocket. He was a great ſcholar, had a good heart, an excellent memory, as well as a delicate and ſuſceptible mind; added to theſe, a thorough knowledge of men and manners: not from books only, but from a converſe with the world:—a dangerous, but ſure guide, as founded on experience. Having viſited moſt of the habitable parts of the globe, you may be ſure he could not fail of being a very entertaining, as well as inſtructive companion; and, with ſuch accompliſhments, it is natural to think he was as great a favourite

with

with the gentlemen as the ladies. He had too much good nature to be ſatirical, nor ever found fault with any one for knowing leſs than himſelf. He made it a rule to let no one feel their inferiority, never quarrelled with any body in point of religion, had juſt enough of it himſelf to be thankful for the bleſſings he enjoyed, and to teach him the greateſt of all human wiſdom, *the knowledge of himſelf:* From hence aroſe *Charity*, the firſt of all the Chriſtian virtues. To endeavour to do to others, as he would be done by, was one of his favorite tenets; and this amiable way of thinking taught him likewiſe, that humility and tenderneſs towards inferiors was neceſſary, and conſiſtent with his profeſſion, as a man, and a Chriſtian. So ſweetly did he blend them with his other virtues, that what ſeemed to be done from ſenſe of duty in others, appeared matter of inclination, and natural to him: A conſciouſneſs of acting in ſome degree as he ought, made him not only even and happy in his temper, but gave him a proper aſſurance; made him bold, without being too confident of his own good qualities, and modeſt, without being ſhy. His delicacy of manners was not confined to his own ſpecies, but extended even to the brute creation: I have known him, my dear

Brother,

Brother, expreſs the greateſt uneaſineſs at treading by accident on a worm; and, what may appear ſtrange to ſome, this very man on proper occaſions had the heart of a lion, and could with the greateſt coolneſs face the moſt imminent dangers.

Such a character as this, you will ſay, is not every where to be met with, and think perhaps it would have ſuited a clergyman better than a ſailor; but on the coutrary, he had every requiſite neceſſary for that line of life, and kept as ſtrict a command as any man I ever ſaw or heard of; and yet he was conſidered as the father, rather than the commander of his people. Fear and love, he ſaid, were neceſſary in ſuch a ſituation; but that the abuſe of power was only the property of a tyrant. I remember a remarkable inſtance of humility in him towards a common tar, who having occaſion to ſpeak to him on the quarter-deck, would not be covered, although the captain had repeatedly deſired him to put his hat on; By way of enforcing his requeſt, he remarked, that the weather was extremely cold, and ſaid, "My friend, you do not do well to expoſe that old head of yours, which appears to be covered with many an honeſt

neſt ſcar." But the man, I ſuppoſe, conſidering it as a mark of proper reſpect, would not give up the point even to his captain; who, being unwilling to be outdone in good manners by a perſon ſo greatly his inferior, very good-naturedly pulled off his own hat, and continued ſo till the other was covered. In ſhort, not to tire you with a fruitleſs detail, with your leave we will come a little nearer to the point, and take a view of thoſe qualifications which more immediately point out the officer. In the firſt place, he was a profeſſed ſeaman, and a ſtrict diſciplinarian: By attending regularly to the duties of his office, both men and officers looked up to him with a kind of filial regard. In all caſes of diſpute, or difference amongſt his officers, it was a ſaying of his, "Let your ſuperiority of rank be ſhewn by that of underſtanding." In engagements, contrary winds, or ſtormy weather, he made it a point to be the firſt in action, in retreat the laſt; and if he was proud in any thing it was in this. His great example never failed to warm and raiſe a virtuous emulation amongſt his officers and ſeamen: and when men ſet about their duty, ſupported and encouraged in this manner, it is aſtoniſhing to think what may be accompliſhed. In all caſes of emergency, he

was

was ready to prompt and instruct the ignorant, encourage the skilful, and punish the lazy; and it would have delighted any body to have been eye witness of the œconomy and order of the ship under his command. It is a saying, and I believe a very just one, that *if the fountain-head is clear, the lesser streams will partake of it*; and when I consider how the officers and seamen were affected by the exemplary conduct of their commander, I cannot in my conscience think the proverb improperly applied. I can compare this little well-regulated system to nothing so much as a microcosm, in which every figure is actuated by the immediate influence of one all-ruling power; and I have heard him remark, that he considered good order as one of the principal movements on which a well-regulated government consisted: Example causes emulation, emulation is the life of action, and encouragement the nurse of it. "Let nothing," says he, "tempt you to forgive the first offence, no matter from whence it cometh; it will shew a defect in the legislator, and be the means of encouraging a second. Should you be obliged to punish, do it with great seeming reluctance, acquainting them you are sorry the nature of the offence renders it necessary an individual should

suffer

ſuffer by way of example: order it to be done to the purpoſe, or not at all; and, if convenient, leave the management of it to your chief officer, and abſent yourſelf. This will make it appear a matter of neceſſity rather than choice, and ſerve to convince your ſhip's company, that you take no pleaſure in their puniſhment. "It is a rule with me," he often ſaid, "to hear no tales to the prejudice of my officers; and at the ſame time to take eſpecial care they do not abuſe the confidence I place in them, by being too harſh and ſevere with thoſe under their authority; and always conſider an injury or affront paid to them, in the execution of their duty, as offered to myſelf: Should any one preſume to take improper liberties with them, I never fail to redreſs the grievance by puniſhing the offender; but ſhould the officer be to blame, I take him privately to taſk, and let him know my ſentiments; and ſo by this means keep up the balance of power, by preſerving a proper ſubordination: I conſider the whole as links in a chain, all equally dependent on each other, and of which myſelf and officers are the largeſt and ſtrongeſt, as having the greateſt burdens to bear; but ſhould any of the inferior links be injured through neglect or want of proper attention, or by what

means ſoever it matters not, I think it would be unneceſſary to ſay, the whole would thereby be rendered uſeleſs."

In regard to his private virtues,—he was ſtrict to his marriage vow, and would not allow of the faſhionable adage, *a wife at every port;* he was temperate in his diet, and I think I never ſaw him intoxicated with liquor. It is no wonder then that he was an enemy to intemperance, and never failed to treat thoſe who were addicted to that or any other vice, with every mark of his diſpleaſure.

Perhaps, from this ſhort ſketch I have given you of the character of Captain *Clements*, you will think that he was too ſtrict to be agreeable; quite the reverſe;—and although rigid in regard to himſelf, he made a thouſand allowances for young people. Here was no hectoring, bullying, bluſtering, and ſwearing; his behavior was eaſy, manly, natural, and generous; and as he never deſired any thing to be done, in which he had not at ſome time or another ſet the example, ſure there could not be much difficulty in the performance by thoſe whoſe immediate duty it was to ſee them duly executed. And, as a convincing

proof

proof of the love and reſpect his officers and ſeamen bore towards him, as well as to ſhew you that virtue is its own reward, if you are ſo inclined, attend to the following anecdote :—

Some little time after the commencement of hoſtilities in North America, the *Royal Charlotte*, (the veſſel Captain *Clements* commanded) being on her return from India, by the way of China, in order to take in a cargo for England, found that an expreſs had juſt arrived by the *direct ſhips*, acquainting their ſupercargoes at Canton, that not having occaſion for the commodities which they had ordered that ſeaſon, on account of the preſent troubles at home, had authorized them to ſignify to the captains of the returning ſhips, that they would grant them the privilege of trading on their own account to any part of India, provided they could indemnify the company to the owners. As this was an advantage not to be looked for or expected, there never having been an inſtance of the kind before, it is natural to think the captains would be all very happy to embrace the opportunity: however, there was one difficulty in the way; I mean with reſpect to the ſeamen; for as they are chartered for a particular voyage, from London to &c. &c.

it expreſsly ſays, the captain ſhall not alter his voyage, but act according to articles of agreement, on any account or pretence whatever, without the immediate conſent of the parties concerned: And moreover, it ſpecifies in the charter, that ſhould it ſo happen they were in a harbour where they could get other ſeamen, the captains commanding ſuch ſhips are obliged to pay them their full wages the very ſame as if they had completed their voyage; as well as provide them with their paſſage home, &c. Thus circumſtanced, the crews of the other two indiamen that were there at this time refuſing to go, the captains were obliged to drop all thoughts of it of courſe. When Captain *Clements* ſpoke to his ſhip's company for this purpoſe, he ſtated the matter to them nearly as I have repreſented, expreſſing at the ſame time his warmeſt acknowledgments for the cheerful performance of their duty on all occaſions; remarking, that if they would accompany him on this voyage, he would endeavour to make it as agreeable and as advantageous to them as poſſible, according to their different ſtations. This, he ſaid, he thought was but reaſonable, as he confeſſed it was his principal motive for wiſhing to go himſelf: and, ſays he, " in juſtice to you, my lads, I think it but

requiſite

requſite, that if you ſhare in the fatigue, you ſhould have a part of the profit alſo. It would be abominable," continued he, " to work for a maſter in a vineyard, who would not allow one to taſte of the grape;" and, concluding with a ſmile peculiar to himſelf, ſaid, " You know, my brave fellows, I cannot go without you." Here Captain *Clements* pauſed, and the boatſwain giving the ſignal with his pipe, they gave their conſent and concurrence in three Britiſh cheers; a very ſhort, but pertinent ſpeech; and I defy the beſt orator in the world to have given one more to the purpoſe. This being over, the ſhip's company, with the boatſwain at their head, requeſted the captain that he would be pleaſed to grant them a little money to buy neceſſaries; and in regard to what he had promiſed them, they would leave that to his honour; declaring at the ſame time, they were ready to go, when and where he pleaſed; and concluded in their blunt honeſt way by ſaying, that " If he led them the way, let it be where it would, they ſhould follow him." By this means, I am credibly informed, Captain *Clements*, after having amply ſatisfied his officers and ſeamen, was ſuppoſed to clear a very handſome fortune, with

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the approbation of an honeſt heart into the bargain.

Adieu!—and that you may be as good, and as much reſpected in every departmnet of life as Captain *Clements* was, is the ſincere wiſh, and conſtant prayer of

Your affectionate Brother,

PALINURUS.

*P. S. Harriot* is juſt arrived from the country, where ſhe has been on a party of pleaſure; and ſeeing me a going to cloſe my Letter, deſired me to inform you, that ſhe writes next poſt; and I, who never tell any tales, muſt tell you, That there is a whole pacquet, all the news in town and country for this month paſt, poſitively; for, to let you into a ſecret, as well as give you an idea of what you are to expect, you muſt know I ſurprized her about an hour ago with no leſs than four whole ſheets of paper as full as ever they could hold. I have a woman's curioſity, as I think there muſt be ſome mighty ſecrets

paſſing

paſſing between you; for had I been a ſpy, and ſhe had been writing to her ſweetheart, ſhe could not have appeared in greater confuſion. I wiſh you were at home, though, if ſhe is ſo fond of you when you are abſent, I do not know what ſhe will make of you when you are here: I ſhall begin to grow as jealous as an old Turk. All her leiſure hours are dedicated to you; and, as ſhe is one of your notable folks, ſhe pleads multiplicity of buſineſs, and has not a moment to ſpare with your humble ſervant. I mention this, Jack, only to let you know how much you are obliged to her; and if you do not think of her and I ſometimes, in my conſcience you have a great deal to anſwer for.—God bleſs you;—may you be as happy as I wiſh you.—Adieu!

# LETTER VII.

Prodeſſe quam Conſpici.
*Uſeful rather than Conſpicuous.*

DEAR JACK,

HARRIOT is cloſetted; ſhe has received a ſwinging letter, and from the expence of the poſtage, I conclude it is from your Lordſhip:—but, *à propos*, here comes the good lady, juſt in the nick of time, to anſwer for herſelf, and pop in a word or two for you. I can aſſure you, Jack, I had juſt taken the pet, and was going to ſcold you moſt heartily, but ſhe, ſweet Girl, has reconciled every thing. They joke me about being a batchelor, but could I get ſuch a wife as *Harriot*, I do not care if I was married to-morrow. Seeing me a little out of humour, and gueſſing the cauſe, ſhe made your apologies in form; and with ſo good a grace, as made me quite in love with her. Were I to give you a hint, ſhould you treſpaſs in any ſort, and we are all liable to frailty, believe me, you could not

employ a better counſellor; and what is rare to find, one who has ſo much your intereſt at heart. Becauſe ſhe thought I was a little mortified, I ſuppoſe, do you know the good creature indulged me with a ſight of your letter;—but mum for that:—I am worſe than the woman folks, poſitively. I was enjoined ſecrecy, ſo by this you may perceive that I am not yet initiated into the honourable body of free-maſons: But I have a ſufficient excuſe, and ſhould not have done it on any account had it not been to let you know, that I think you might have found a better ſubject than your humble ſervant. I ſuppoſe now I am to thank you for your good opinion of me, particularly as you imagined I ſhould not know it; and to let you into another ſecret, I muſt inform you that you are quite in the *ton*, and one may as well be out of the world, you know, as out of the faſhion. The young folks at court, they tell me, are taught to love and ſpeak well of each other as ſoon as they can *clip the king's Engliſh*; and I am ſure their royal parents ſet them a very good example.—Leſt you ſhould be angry with *Harriot*, I muſt confeſs (to my ſhame be it ſpoken) that I had ſuffered my evil genius to get the better of me ſo far, as to be what one may call confoundedly ill-

natured;

natured; and how do you think the little gipsy managed to bring me, who is almost old enough to be her father, to the penitentials? Why, I'll tell you:—"There," says she, presenting me with your Letter; "you seem to be rather out of humour, Brother? it is not for me to ask the cause, but if it is for want of a line from Jack, take and read my letter at your leisure; and believe me, I am sorry to be reduced to the disagreeable necessity of giving pain to one Brother, by way of justifying another." You know the rest, and therefore may have an idea how I felt myself.

Advice from me, after so flagrant an instance of my own weakness, is something like preaching without practice. And now I am serious, I do not mean to excuse myself, for after what you have said that is impossible; but in order to reconcile me a little to myself, I must bring in:—What?—some others I suppose,—a very charitable way of thinking indeed; the farther I tread, I find the more in the mire: However, I was going to say, and I'll be bound for it you are of the same opinion, that we have all our hobby-horses; and that if the world would but deal with each other as candidly as you and I, they would acknowledge that they stood in need

of each others counſel and affiſtance every day in their lives. The only difference is, we are not all frank and free alike, and ſome can gloſs over their ſoibles better than others, that is all. But I ſhould have ſaid ſomething more on that ſubject, if I had not a book in ſtore for you, which far ſurpaſſes any thing I can write, and is, I am afraid, too juſt a picture: It is a Play, called *The School for Scandal:* I do not at preſent recollect the author; however, that is of no conſequence. It is highly finiſhed, and, as far as my experience will allow me to judge, the characters are exact, and juſtly drawn.

Now I am ſomewhat reconciled; I ſhall go on, and proceed according to promiſe.—In my laſt I gave you the character of Captain *Clements*; though to do him juſtice requires a more able pen than mine. I could have drawn you a dozen or two of your acquaintance nearer home; I was not at a loſs for agreeable characters I aſſure you; but as I was an officer with Captain *Clements*, and of courſe muſt be ſuppoſed to be rather better acquainted with him than any other, was the reaſon I gave him the preference. We need not go ſo far for a pattern; there is your own maſter for inſtance. I have heard a very

amiable

amiable character of him, and I ſhall leave you to confirm it. And now, while we are diſcourſing on this topic, ſuppoſe we take a curſory view of the *coal trade* in general:—The *coal trade*, my dear Brother, is not only beneficial but honourable;—beneficial to the nation as well as individuals, daily experience convinces us; and honourable, as it is the grand nurſery to the Britiſh navy. In the time of war, the wooden walls of Old England, her beſt and ſureſt defence, is ſupplied from that uſeful body with numbers of ſkilful and experienced ſeamen: and I have heard it frequently remarked by gentlemen of the navy, that they were always glad to ſee them on board, as they were found to be not only able, but willing and alert in their duty. So much for general obſervation; and I am convinced in my own breaſt it is no more than their due. Shall now proceed to particulars, and ſpeak of ſome few characters, which are indeed juſtly exceptionable.—Remember I mention no names, nor is it neceſſary; indeed they ſpeak for themſelves, and confirm what you and I were diſcourſing about when laſt I had the pleaſure of your company. Should you ſhew my letter to any of our fraternity, and they take any part of it to themſelves, as I do not

mean

mean to offend them, it would be unneceſſary to make an apology: If the cap fits, let them wear it. Should I have occaſion, as I dare ſay I ſhall, to hint at a peculiar character, I ſhall not balk myſelf, and you may be aſſured that in ſo doing I had an eye to your advantage. I am ſenſible there are a great many worthy men in the *coal trade* who will join with me in thinking, therefore it is immaterial what the reſt ſhall ſay of me: their opinion is trifling and of no conſequence, when ſet in competition with my love for you; ſo ſhall ſpeak of my profeſſion impartially, and juſt the ſame as if I had never belonged to it. I muſt own I had ſome little difficulty in bringing myſelf to this; and you will find, on conſideration, it is a natural idea for any man who has ſerved his apprenticeſhip in any profeſſion or branch of buſineſs whatever, to have in his breaſt a kind of filial regard for that ſervice; to which he is indebted for the firſt rudiments of his education in regard to profeſſional knowledge, &c. It rejoices me beyond meaſure that I can ſay without being in danger of having my veracity called in queſtion that there are a great many clever fellows in the *coal trade*, men of real merit, and poſſeſſed of abilities that would do credit to any ſervice; and as a convincing

proof

proof that I thought ſo, it was I who recommended you to your preſent ſituation, although I was at that time in the Eaſt India ſervice myſelf. As I ſhall have occaſion to give you ſpecimens of another ſort, men as different in their character from thoſe we have been ſpeaking of as light from darkneſs, I thought it neceſſary to make a diſtinction, leſt you ſhould think I included the whole; being fearful from my being ſo much in the foreign ſervice, you might conclude I was partial, and had taken a diſlike to the *coal trade* in general.—So much by way of defence. My intention therefore at preſent not being to talk of the good, but of thoſe that are exceptionable, ſhall preſent you with a very different character, a perſon you and I are acquainted with, a captain on board a certain ſhip, a very decent man in many reſpects, one that the world calls *no one's enemy but his own*; and it is thoſe peculiarities that render him ſo, that I mean to point out to you: I am ſorry to ſay I believe there are too many like him, who pluming themſelves on ſome fancied excellence in the way of their profeſſion, for which perhaps they are indebted to a good, ſound, hardy conſtitution, more than any real merit of their own, claim a kind of ſuperiority, and affect to laugh at thoſe,

who

who not being ſo happy as to be bleſt with the ſame advantages, cannot, or perhaps ſeeing no real cauſe for it, think in quite unneceſſary.—In wet, ſtormy weather, your canvas reefed, handed, &c. &c. as occaſion requires, relieved by your mate, and every thing ſnug and clear on deck, I ſhould be glad to know why the captain ſo ſituated, ſhould not abſent himſelf, if he ſees a convenient opportunity of changing his apparel. I can aſſure you he will find himſelf benefited by it more ways than one, and be rendered more capable of performing his duty. Should occaſion offer to take a temporary repoſe, although it may rob him of a part of the time that ſhould be appropriated for that purpoſe, yet depend upon it he will find his account in it. I will maintain it from undeniable arguments, that he had better ſhift himſelf, even admitting he was obliged to go on deck the next moment, than ſleep with his wet clothes on. This your veterans will not allow;—they ſay it is unmanly; and by way of deriſion, call theſe your *gentlemen captains*, *ladies children ſent to ſea to wear their old clothes out*, and being brought up with a ſilver ſpoon in their mouths, they ſay, it is not to be expected theſe pretty gentlemen can bear the fatigues which they can: and in order

order to make their affertion good, or out of bravado; for I can impute it to no other cauſe, except lazineſs; fortifying themſelves with a dram or two of Geneva, a large quid of tobacco, and rolling themſelves up in a great watch coat, diſdain to look at, much leſs to go near a fire; though if their falſe pride would admit of it, and the body could ſpeak for itſelf, I am confident it would inveigh moſt bitterly againſt the perverſeneſs of the ſpirit inhabiting it, for ſuch an unreaſonable control, as not only to prevent its recruiting and refreſhing itſelf when nature points out the neceſſity, and opportunity offers; but forcing it after all to lie down on a cheſt, and there imbibe in at the pores a complication of diſorders, which ſooner or later the poor wretched tenement never fails to experience.

Theſe are miſtaken notions, my dear Brother, and anſwer no other purpoſe than that of injuring our healths. It was a mode with me on theſe occaſions to ſhift myſelf whenever I could, and always found myſelf benefited by it. I made it a rule to give the watch a dram, but to thoſe only who had taken this neceſſary precaution; and ſo coaxed them, as it were, to take care of themſelves,

without their knowing it, further than by the gratuity annexed in consequence of the performance: and in a dark, cold rainy, night, let me tell you, Brother, this is an undeniable argument. The stoutest hearts are liable to flag in such situations; therefore would recommend it to you on this occasion to be a little jocular, remarking perhaps that what was good for the master, could not be bad for the man, &c. You cannot imagine how these trifling condescensions, well timed, will endear you to your ship's company; particularly if you are a strict, active, and vigilant officer; the one may secure respect, but the other, let me tell you, is the way to their hearts: it makes them not so much you bound, as your voluntary servants; and sure it must make the honest heart glow with pleasure on reflection, to think that what is here done through necessity, would be the same allowing it to be matter of choice. I think I need not remark *when the will is at home, all difficulties are fled.* In the whole course of my experience, I never knew any thing that could intimidate a bold British Tar, provided he had a good opinion of his officer, and was properly supported. Seamen in general, I must own, will not bear much indulgence, therefore it is best to keep them at a *proper* distance. In short, it

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is only what they have a right to expect; and they are happier among themſelves in this ſituation than when it is otherwiſe. It is a ſaying even among themſelves, *Every man to his ſtation, the cook to the fore ſheet, &c.* ſo that the maſter, in fact, when he makes too familiar with them, may very properly be ſaid to act out of his ſtation. Give them plenty of victuals, and be ſure never to let them want employment; for there are bad as well as good amongſt them; and idleneſs it is well known is the forerunner of every miſchief. You cannot be too ſtrict in your duty. Take eſpecial care that your orders be implicitly obeyed, and endeavour to ſet them the example by your own behaviour, ſo as to render a look almoſt ſufficient. Your commands ſhould be held in the higheſt eſtimation, and conſidered like the laws of the Medes and Perſians *which alter not*; for if once you allow them to quibble, and differ in opinion, however juſt it may be, if you were the beſt man in the world in other reſpects, take my word for it you will loſe your prerogative, and are doing them a very great injury. Your duties are diſtinct and ſeparate; you are to command, they are to obey; and if they find you deficient, pray who are they to look to but themſelves? It behoves you then, Brother, to make

yourſelf maſter of your buſineſs. Think what a contemptible figure they muſt cut, who have a number of brave fellows, and yet know not how to command them. In ſhort, I would have a captain rigid in his duty, without appearing to be ſo; and there is a method which is better felt than deſcribed. Should any of your crew be indiſpoſed, fail not to attend to their different complaints; for if you cannot relieve, it is pleaſing at leaſt that you condeſcend to viſit them; and though, perhaps, you may not be of any eſſential ſervice, it is more than probable you may alleviate the poignancy of their ſufferings by ſympathizing with them: The more elevated your ſituation, the more amiable it will appear. Baniſh reſerve; for now is the time to converſe with them familiarly without endangering your prerogative; and ſhew them that you only throw aſide the captain to ſubſtitute the affectionate friend. Should any of them be undeſerving, as it is ſometimes the caſe, let not that pervert the feelings of humanity; it is ſufficient that they are your fellow creatures to be intitled to your aſſiſtance. If they are ungrateful, the fault will be theirs, not yours; and, admitting you may have no other reward, your own heart will ſufficiently repay you.—But this is wandering from my ſubject:—You will

pardon

pardon me; but I always find myſelf intereſted in behalf of my poor brethren, whom, I am ſorry to ſay, I believe to be frequently much neglected, little thought of, and but very indifferently treated: and, let me tell you, a tarpawling jacket ſometimes covers a man of genius, and extraordinary merit. He may not have ſhining accompliſhments, it is true, but he may have, what is much better, an upright honeſt heart.

A particular engagement obliges me to end ſomewhat abruptly, but will endeavour to make up that deficiency in my next. In the mean time, accept my beſt wiſhes for your health, proſperity, and happineſs; and believe me ever

Yours affectionately,

PALINURUS.

*P.S. A word to the wiſe.—Harriot* did not take it kind ſhe was not remembered in your laſt.—Adieu.

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# LETTER VIII.

Dies Ægritudinis eſt Hominibus.
*There is a Day of Sorrow for all Men.*

DEAR JACK,

IT is with great pleaſure I write to you, when I have any thing agreeable to communicate. *Harriot's* indiſpoſition has rendered her incapable of performing her office, and, though painful, the taſk is mine! Loth am I to pierce the heart of my beloved Brother; and tremble while I tell him, that ſince my laſt, he has loſt the beſt of Fathers, and the tendereſt of friends! But, for your comfort, know he died perfectly reſigned, and ſpoke of you at a time when all earthly conſiderations were beneath his notice. His wiſhes for our happineſs were not confined to this world, but extended even beyond the grave. Let it be our ambition then to follow his good example: A better legacy he could not have left us. In this caſe let him be ever preſent to our memory,

ry; it will ſerve to awake and animate our ſleeping virtues: and, ſhould that prove ineffectual, I flatter myſelf his laſt dying requeſt will be for ever engraven on our hearts,—*Be good, my children, and be happy!*—Time ſoftens all things, and alleviates the ſeverity of every human affliction; and we are now, thank God, tolerably reconciled, though we never can forget the invaluable bleſſing we have loſt.—Farewel! I will leave you to your ſorrows, and ſhall only beg leave to recommend moderation. *Harriot*, who is looking over my ſhoulder, tells me I ſhould not write in ſuch a ſtile; that you are young, and though you do not want diſcretion, ſhe thinks it would be better to ſpeak more tenderly, and whiſper ſomething like conſolation. Poor Girl! ſhe preſcribes for you what ſhe cannot follow herſelf.—I have a thouſand fears concerning her:—her tender nerves ſure were never calculated to ſuſtain ſo great a ſhock!—My heart bleeds for her!—She has too much good ſenſe to acknowledge it, but it is viſible to every one about her that ſhe pines in ſecret. May heaven reſtore her to our wiſhes!—From my ſoul I pity her!—All my ſorrows are loſt in hers. It is a happy circumſtance you are not with us: as you would only ſerve to ſwell the tide of grief. Ah, my Brother! what a change

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is here! Where is now that once happy family? All our joy is turned to mourning, ſince he who gave us pleaſure is no more. Every thing around us wears the gloomy face of ſorrow: even his favourite grey-hound looks and mourns his loſs.—But why dwell ſo long on ſuch a theme? Perhaps I have ſaid too much already! I know thy heart is caſt in nature's mould, is replete with tenderneſs,—and think I ſee the page already half blotted with thy tears; and let them flow:—far be it from me to wiſh to ſtop the precious current, or ſteal from filial gratitude the ſigh. Fie on that proud heart that is aſhamed to weep. If mine can admit one ſpark of joy in this ſad hour, it conſiſts in thinking my Brother has a grateful mind, a heart ſuſceptible of feeling and retaining the tendereſt impreſſions; a heart, that can forget its own and weep another's woe: Our griefs indulged indeed, deſerve our ſhame.—Ye, who e'er loſt ſo good a father,—pity me!—Adieu, and believe me ever

Yours affectionately,

PALINURUS.

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# LETTER IX.

*Toſs'd thro' tempeſtuous Seas, the Voyage o'er,*
*Pale we look back, and bleſs the friendly Shore:*
*Bleſs the kind Pow'r that ſet us free,*
*And triumph in our Liberty.* ROWE.

DEAR JACK,

I Received your very affectionate Letter, dated *Amſterdam*, Aug. 12th. I muſt own I did not expect much entertainment, and therefore met with no diſappointment. I knew your heart would be exceeding ſorrowful at the news of your father's death, and wiſhed to give you a little time to recover from the ſurprize and ſorrow it would naturally occaſion: I am glad you have availed yourſelf of that opportunity, and are ſo happily compoſed. Tears are of no ſignification, I grant you, and it is only on ſome particular occaſions a man can weep, and retain his dignity; and at any rate, if you will moralize, it is but a woman's weakneſs. All this I own; but, Brother, that very weakneſs does us credit here. You ſay, that while I betray the man, I ought

not to forget that I am a Chriſtian ;—an amiable thought, and worthy of my Brother, as that is the grand ſource from which all human comforts flow. I muſt confeſs I did not expect ſo much philoſophy at your years, and ſome people may think, perhaps, it had come better from me than yourſelf; but no matter, amongſt friends theſe are trifles: For my own part, I am not aſhamed to receive inſtructions from my youngeſt Brother, and am delighted to think he is capable of ſetting me ſo good an example.

I find you have had very diſagreeable weather, and was within an ace of being ſhipwrecked; I long to know how you felt yourſelf, and how the practice of piety agrees with the theory; be candid, and let me know your ſentiments ingenuouſly: Believe me, I can make a great many good-natured allowances, as I have been more than once in a ſimilar ſituation; and can tell you, that ſince I had the pleaſure of ſeeing you, I have had a very narrow eſcape myſelf. I will not enter at preſent on particulars; let it ſuffice to ſay, that as ſeamen, we had tried all human methods for our preſervation, and did not, like the carter in the fable, aſk the aſſiſtance of Hercules, before he had laid his ſhoulder to the wheel; but finding all ineffectual, and having

nothing

nothing but the appearance of death before our eyes, we went unanimouſly to prayers, being well convinced that nothing but an Almighty arm could ſnatch us from the danger that threatened us.—Ah, my Brother, that was indeed a trying hour! And yet, what need the ſailor fear that is a Chriſtian? Rocks and quick-ſands, our common enemies, to him ſerve but as a paſſport to a better haven. But hold my pen, I muſt not deceive you,—your Brother was not quite ſo compoſed,—he had a number of follies to anſwer for; beſides, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, he was unhappy in his affection for his family, which his fond heart could not part with without a tear.—Ah, ſad rememberance! but now 'tis paſt—'tis nothing—a dream—no more;—Heavens! what did I ſay?—O what a monſter of ingratitude is man! no ſooner is he releaſed from his diſtreſs, than he forgets the hand that ſet him free. They talk of ſailors, but I do not know any ſet of men who have more reaſon to be religiouſly vigilent, as the evils which to men in other ſtations ſeem far diſtant, to them are inſtant, and ever before their eyes.—I hope then, dear Brother, you do not forget this neceſſary duty: Theſe are ſubjects that ought more frequently to employ your thoughts; it will not

make

make you either grave or gloomy. The good man is always cheerful, and I dare ſay you have experienced that this divine employment carries with it an immediate reward.—What cannot prayer procure? Every thing man can aſk, or God beſtow. Let us be diligent in reading the *Holy Scriptures*; there we ſhall ſee our fallen ſtate, and our recovery through Chriſt. You will find ſome, no doubt, that will ſneer and laugh at you, but do not let that prevent you from perſevering in your duty, and daring to be ſingularly virtuous. And, now we are converſing on this topic, admitting we go ſafe, that our voyage is proſperous; yet, after all, our journey here is ſhort and tranſient, and yet a little while, and we too ſhall follow, and leave our weeping friends, to become the loathſome tenants of a tomb. And what comes of us then? Are we not taught, and doſt thou not believe, that good mens ſpirits fly to regions of eternal reſt? and, ah! humiliating thought, if we may be allowed the conjecture, pity thoſe they have left behind: Then wherefore mourn the dead, as if we wiſh to recal them from the ſkies!—Our grief is ſelfiſh! elſe why weep for thoſe who are far happier than ourſelves? Life's but a pilgrimage, my Brother, and we are all haſtening to that *bourne from whence no traveller returns*; and

are

are we to grieve then, becauſe ſome arrive before us at the goal, and who, perhaps, ſet out more early on their journey? or forget to provide what is neceſſary for ours, becauſe ſome of our fellow-travellers have left us upon the road? Humanity allows the tribute of a tear over the mournful bier of thoſe we loved;—it is natural, and what is natural is juſt; but grief, immoderate grief, Heaven itſelf forbids. And when we part, O happy thought! to meet again, if we cannot challenge an earthly parent's love, I truſt we ſhall partake of the never-fading joys of our Celeſtial Father.

*Harriot* is indiſpoſed, and has been a long time confined to her chamber; a delicate ſenſibility (a refinement known to few) has rendered her incapable of ſupporting her loſs: A ſettled melancholy preys upon her ſpirits, a deceaſe beyond the power of medicine to cure: I wiſh ſhe could but weep heartily; tears here would be the meſſengers of joy: How ſhall we account for it? I have ſeen them many a time run down her cheeks at the bare relation of the misfortunes of a ſtranger. And now there is immediate occaſion, alas! they have forgot to flow! I would recommend it to you to be particu-

larly

larly cautious how you write to her; ſpeak of indifferent ſubjects, and endeavour to divert her as much as poſſible, but not a word of your Father, it mighto ccaſion a relapſe and in that caſe I ſhould deſpair of her life. Adieu! I remain with great truth and ſincerity,

Yours Affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER X.

*——————Man*
*Too noble for Revenge! which ſtill we find*
*The weakeſt Frailty of a feeble Mind.*
*Degenerous Paſſion, and for Man too baſe,*
*It ſeats its Empire in the Female Race;*
*There rages, and to make its Blow ſecure,*
*Puts Flatt'ry on until its Aim be ſure.*

CREECH JUV.

DEAR JACK,

I Received yours, and am glad to hear of your ſpeedy return to England. I was reading your Letter to *Harriot* yeſterday, as thinking it would be agreeable, and ſerve to amuſe her; but to my great ſurprize and mortification, ſhe appeared quite inſenſible to any thing of that kind; and did not even ſo much as enquire how you were. —She was ſeated on the ſopha, with her head reclined upon her hand, and, except being in the attitude of liſtening, ſeemed loſt in thought; but it appears I was miſtaken, for when I came to that part of your Letter which ſpoke of your

return, gently raiſing her head, ſhe graſped her hands together, and lifted up her languid eyes to heaven in a ſupplicating poſture; and I could perceive the faint glimmering of a ſmile dying on her lips, while her looks expreſſed unutterable things.—O! my Brother, how awful is exceſs of ſorrow! I would not for the world be left again with her alone in ſuch a ſituation: I was not able to ſtir, and ſpeak I could not; the ſolemn ſilence that enſued, added to her looks, which expreſſed at once what was paſſing in her ſoul, had arreſted the vital current, and confined me to my ſeat: Her eyes were fixed ſtedfaſtly on the floor, and I could perceive her colour continually changing, and yet I was unable to render her the leaſt aſſiſtance. Alas, my Brother! this is but adding freſh fuel to the fire; to ſee her thus, diſtreſſes me beyond imagination, and in ſpite of all my better reaſoning cauſes my ſorrows to bleed afreſh: I wiſh you would return and oblige us with your company; for, notwithſtanding all his boaſted fortitude, the ſailor who has braved the ſtorm, turns coward here, and plays the woman.

Your preſence would be very agreeable, and particularly to *Harriot*; for although ſhe regards me

me as a Brother, yet I have ſome reaſon to think you are her favorite; and may you ever be ſo:—We have all our partialities, but there is no accounting for them; and if we were to reaſon ever ſo we cannot tell why. This we may be certain of, that while we continue united in the band of friendſhip and brotherly love, the world can never hurt us; but if we quarrel, and are divided, ſingly we fall an eaſy prey, and what our enemies could not accompliſh, we do ourſelves: and it were happy for us that it ended here; but the misfortune is, friends in theſe caſes uſually prove the bitterest of foes.—In love there is no medium, and if once we hearken to the voice of calumny, farewel for ever to the ſocial virtues: Affection then will turn to hatred: The mother, deaf to her childrens cries, obdurate ſteels her heart, and nature pleads in vain: All things are then reverſed; and, ſtrange to tell, unnatural Brothers fight in open day; the ſweet regards, the tenderneſſes of life, even timorous female ſoftneſs, is no more: Amazon-like ſhe takes the field, fraught with revenge, though none has done her wrong; an enemy to peace, Woman, revengeful Woman, provokes the horrid and unnatural fray!—Nor is there quarter there; no ſubmiſſions will be heard which as a Man thou canſt with honour

give; then lay thy olive-branch aſide, quick gird on thy armour, and prepare for war: Mercy there is none; for mercy is a god-like attribute, and dwells not there; dreadful alternative! fight thou muſt; ſelf-preſervation wills it ſo;—and conquer or conquered, thou muſt bleed. Eternal juſtice weighs the ſcales, and lo! the victory is in ballance held, and now the combatants may count their gains;—the oyſter's gone, and left for each *a ſhell.* And though neither party has prevailed, yet both perhaps are ruined.—What ſhall they do? when Troy's in aſhes, repentance comes too late; the injured may forgive, but the injurer never can: So, innocent or guilty, all, *all* muſt fall. Friends they have none; for who would be friends to thoſe who cannot be ſo to themſelves? Domeſtic warfare, a perpetual ſtrife, like a curſt cankering worm, forbids repoſe. Now conſcience turns accuſer, each at each other rail, and low abuſe ſupplies the hours of joy; though doubly wretched they who can but think they were the cauſe. To complete the horrid ſcene, the world looks ſhyly on, and wonders at the fatal havoc diſcord makes. Even pity, the wretch's comfort, is witheld. Slighted and condemned by all, a by-word to their neighbours, they have at laſt the mortifying circumſtance, by way

of

of aggrivating their miſery, of hearing good mothers tell their children to beware of ſuch examples, and quoting texts in ſcripture to enforce their precepts.

This, my dear Brother, is an awful picture; and if I gueſs your thoughts aright, you think it cannot be; I thought ſo once myſelf;—and though the recital gives me pain, yet be aſſured it is literally true: God forbid we ſhould ever experience the like, yet it is well to know that ſuch things are. I am not in the humour to particularize, or I could give you proofs not far from home; but excuſe me now, I hate to communicate diſagreeable things.

Such kind of diſcourſe may probably appear ſtrange to you, who are now only dawning towards manhood; and do not as yet know the many hideous ſhapes we mortals frequently appear in, and which are more in number and variety than are to be met with in *Ovid's Metamorphoſis*, or in the airy brains of thoſe grave Authors, who have buſied themſelves in compoſing, with much learning and labour, the wonderful hiſtories of witches and witchcraft.

Adieu!

Adieu!—I will now leave you to your reflections; and that we may never experience the like unhappineſs ſhall ever be the conſtant prayer of,

Your affectionate Brother,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER XI.

Fælix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

*Happy is he whom others Harms make wary.*

DEAR JACK,

HARRIOT is juſt arrived from Buxton, where ſhe has been for the recovery of her health, and whether we are indebted to the journey, the good company, or the wells, I know not; but this I can aſſure you, that ſhe looks charminly, and is in better ſpirits than I expected to have ſeen her. I find you took the hint, and wrote a very curious and entertaining account of the Hollanders; ſhe read it to us yeſterday afternoon, as we ſat in an arbour in the garden, with great glee; and we were all highly diverted. Mr G——y and the agreeable Miſs H——n were of our party, and joined in the mirth your laughable deſcription afforded us: You are a *droll* fellow, and as long as you and I have been acquainted, I never knew that *that* was your fort; however,

however, I flatter myſelf I have a great deal of pleaſure to come, as I find you have a particular knack in this way, and am perfectly ſatisfied there is not one in a thouſand who could have told the ſtory with ſo much humour: for my own part, I don't pretend to it, and when I am a little low ſpirited (which, by the bye, is but ſeldom) I have nothing elſe to do, I find, but to write to you for another ſpecimen of your jocularity. I am in great ſpirits, and never wrote to you with ſo much pleaſure. It is but fair that as you ſhare my ſorrows, you ſhould partake of my joy:—We drank your health in a glaſs of good honeſt port on your birth-day, and wiſhed you many happy returns; and there is not a night that *Harriot* does not drink her abſent friend in a bumper, ſo that your being at a diſtance can never eraſe you from our hearts. I underſtand your voyage is countermanded, and am ſorry for it, as I expected to have had the pleaſure of your company; but there is nothing certain in this world, and it is good ſound policy to ſubmit with reſignation to the diſpenſations of Providence. I ſupped and ſpent the evening with Captain W——t, a gentleman of our acquaintance; he is a ſtriking likeneſs of the character delineated in a former letter, and is, com-

paratively ſpeaking, an old man at forty years of age; he cannot walk without crutches, and tells me he is racked to death with the rheumatiſm; and was candid enough to acknowledge he got it in the very manner I was deſcribing to you (ſleeping with his wet cloths on). Being in one of his good humours, he was very communicative; and told me, with a very ſignificant ſhake of the head, accompanied with a very heavy ſigh, *which came from the bottom of his heart*,—" You can remember well enough, my friend," ſays he, " I feared (as a body may ſay) neither wind nor weather: I thought nothing could hurt me, but have lived long enough now (though a young man) to experience the folly of ſuch kind of doctrine; but I copied after my maſter, and as he was reckoned a very clever ſmart fellow, I thought, to be ſure, he could do nothing amiſs.—For a few years—who but me! I neither felt nor feared any thing, and would rather have had a chaw of tobacco than a meal of victuals at any time. By the by, I remember when I firſt larnt to chaw, it uſed to make me moſt confoundedly ſick, but I had got a notion it was manly (mind ye) and ſo continued till I had got the better on't; and now, if you will believe me, I am a parfect ſlave to it: Our

houſe-keeper and I have duced ſplits about it; ſhe ſays I ſpit all over the chairs and bed; to be ſure I always tell her ſhe lies, though (betwixt ourſelves) I believe ſhe is not far out in her reckoning, as I was almoſt choaked the other night with a piece of *pigtail*, which I put in my mouth juſt over night, and could not find in my heart to take it out when I went to bed: and I recollect, now we are ſpeaking of that, of a couſin of mine who came from the country, and as I was always glad to ſee my friends, you know, and you amongſt the reſt,—as it was late in the evening, I would needs have him ſtay and turn in with me; and to be ſure I was rather in for the plate, you muſt know. It was juſt ſuch punch as you and I are drinking now, and I fancy I had got my allowance, for I turned in all ſtanding, and had forgot the confounded chaw, I ſuppoſe, for the young fellow complained moſt confoundedly the next morning; and to be ſure his ſhirt collar was as yellow as gold. And, to tell you the truth, I begin to be a little bit aſhamed of myſelf, and would fain leave it off, if I could but tell how; and as you are a bit of a ſcholar, may be you may put me in the way on't: I have heard the women folks talk of putting ſometing on their——you under-

ſtand

ſtand me,—by way of weaning the child: I did not like to aſk my old Sour-docken, but as you are far larnt, I warrant you know as well as ſhe does; and let it be what it will, any thing but a *Sir Rev—ce*, the devil take me if I don't make uſe on't." Here he had a ſmart twitch or two of the rheumatiſm, which made him make a few wry faces; when, reſuming his diſcourſe, "I may thank myſelf for this," ſays he; "and well do I remember, for it was but, as a body may ſay, yeſterday, I uſed to laugh at all your whipper-ſnapper captains (as I called them) who did not do as I did;—I imagined, a good reaſon why, becauſe they could not; and never ſpared them an inch when e'er I met with them: And to ſuch a height had my contempt and avarſion aroſe, that had I come athwart any of them in the Swin, or elſewhere, I would as ſoon been keel-hauled, as put about or bear up for any of them; and monny a time I have laid down upon deck when it was my watch below, for fear my mate, who was a poor ſoft-headed dog, would not do as I had teld him, and let them weather him: but dearly do I pay for it now." Here he had a ſevere fit, which convulſed his whole frame; and finding myſelf rather aukwardly ſituated, I gave the bell a tug, when in

ſteps a ſtout ſtrapping wench with a fleſh-bruſh; —" Aye," ſays ſhe, " I thought how it was;" and began to work with him ſo unconſcionably, that I verily believe there was not a whole piece of ſkin left on either his legs or arms; and when I recovered from the firſt ſurpriſe and confuſion the wench and her maſter had thrown me into, I declare to you I could not forbear ſmiling at the method ſhe had of doing it; for taking him up in her arms, and he is no chicken I aſſure you, ſhe bundled him down on the bed, and ſo to work with him without any further ceremony. The Captain ſtill preſerved his good humour; for as ſoon as the blood began to circulate, and the pain abate, he cried out,—" Ah, my dear honey, you have got the weather-gage of me; but, as I am a mortal man, and hope to eat my dinner, I have ſeen the day, Wench, that I would have clapped an anchor to windward of you in ſpite of your teeth:—What ſay you to that, you jade?" She replied, that ſhe did not underſtand any thing about his anchors, but that ſhe knew her buſineſs very well: when, beginning to renew the operation ſomewhat roughly, whether the ſkin had been tore, or the lazy flood had recovered its circulation, and of courſe the Captain his ſenſe of feeling, I know not; however

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I rather think it had, for he roared out like a madman, and ſnatching up his crutch let drive at her with a vengeance; but fortunately it miſſed her, and only ſplit a pannel of the door; and what ſurpriſed me, the girl only ſmiled, and leaving the room, ſaid, ſomewhat tauntingly, that ſhe warrant he ſhould fetch her, when ſhe came back again. This brought the Captain to himſelf a little; and ſeeing me on my legs, he cries out,—"What's your hurry, meſſmate?—What, not frightened of a wench;—aye boy?" No, thinks I to myſelf, without I were in your ſituation, and then I believe I ſhould ſweat at every pore at the very ſight of her. "What's that you are muttering to yourſelf now? I wiſh to God I was moored in that arm-chair, and had you along-ſide of me, for we muſt not part yet; the bowl's not out, and we have old affairs to talk over, you know:—The old coachman they ſay, likes to hear the crack of the whip, aye, meſſmate?—But as I was telling you,—thoſe very captains that I thought ſo little of then, mind ye, I am ſorry to ſay, have their day about with me now; they are brave fellows, I muſt own, notwithſtanding the indifferent opinion I had of them."—He was going to proceed, when the doctor and his ſervant maid coming into

the

the room, put an end to our converſation.—Riſing to take my leave, the Captain fixing his crutch acroſs the door, cries, "Avaſt, avaſt, meſſmate! you and I muſt not part this way, without you will promiſe to come and dine with me to-morrow, and then thou ſhalt have a ſwinging bowl of punch, large enough to ſwim in; I have invited half-a-dozen honeſt fellows, and I warrant you we will have a merry night on't:—I have ſome funny ſtories to tell you, I promiſe you."—I knew it was to no purpoſe contending with the Captain's humour, ſo conſented. The particulars of our converſation on that day, as I think they may tend to your advantage, ſhall be the ſubject of my next.—In the mean time permit me to remain

Yours affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER XII.

Honi ſoit qui Mal y' penſe.
*Evil be to him who Evil thinks.*

DEAR JACK,

YOU ſee I am as good as myword. I promiſed to give you Captain W——t's converſation the next day, verbatim; and as I am inclined to think it may be uſeful as well as entertaining, ſhall proceed without farther ceremony.

After dinner, the Captain addreſſing himſelf to me, ſays, "Yeſterday you and I were talking of your macaroni captains, you know; what think ye of Joe—Joe—what do ye call him?—Odds my life, I never can think of that fellow's name; a chap that wears his long togs and gold-laced hat at ſea? Why there now, look ye, I never could ſpeak decently to that fellow in my life; and to ſpeak the truth, he uſed only to laugh at me, which made me ſometimes as mad as a March-hare. I uſed

to

to tell him, when he vexed me, that he was nobody,—a cypher,—a meer broomſtick aboard his ſhip; and yet I find on reading laſt week's paper, that although he did not chuſe to quarrel with me, mind ye, he was ready enough to do it with Monſieur the Frenchman; and though he was wounded at the beginning of the fray, yet I am told there was no getting him to leave off: and I am credibly informed, by one that was on board of her at the time, that the people would fain have had him ſtrike to the privateer, and that he anſwered very compoſedly, "What's your hurry, my lads?—ram home wad and ſhot there:—now we are at it, let's give them a few more of our Engliſh pills to ſwallow before we part. It's time enough to think of that, my hearts, when there's ne'er another ſhot in the locker!" And they ſay, moreover, that falling ſhort of wads, he tore the ſhirt off his own back to make them; and by meer dint of good ſeamanſhip and bravery, jockied them ſo as to take all advantages; and though I underſtand ſhe was a veſſel of thrice his force, obliged her to ſheer off and leave ſix or eight of her hands on board, after an engagement of five or ſix glaſſes; and brought his ſhip, crippled and riddled as ſhe was, ſafe into Tinmouth-haven yeſterday.—Now I'll

be

be ſhot, after him, if e'er I paſs my judgment, or quarrel with a man from his looks, or his dreſs, the devil fetch me!

"There is Tom M—r—n, you know he was always reckoned one of your macaroni captains; and I have ſeen him myſelf with an iron-bound hat, and a bit tinſel round his waiſtcoat, when I have been working up Swin with my hairy-cap, fear-nothings, boots, and pea-jacket on; and yet I am told, that man can handle a ſhip in a narrow, as well as ever a he that ever ſet his foot aboard one:—So that you ſee, brother Officer, one may be confoundedly out in one's reckoning, without allowing for lee-way, and variation.

"I remember old B—r—n and H—n—y, they were maſters of ſhips long before I knew what a ſhip was, and yet in my conſcience I think they are as fit for ſarvice as ever, while I have reduced myſelf, in the flower of my age, to the diſagreeable neceſſity of ſitting pricked up in this little cabin here; and what makes it ſo vexatious to me is, to think that it is all owing to my own curſt folly, and nonſenſe.—'Sdeath! I could break my crutch with vexation when I think on't;—and if thou lets that Brother of thine, (who is only a young

beginner) follow this plan, thou deſarveſt to have thy ears cut.—And who do you think I ſaw yeſterday?—as I am a living ſoul now, old Captain Pinwire. Why, I thought the old boy had been ſtow'd away in Davy Jones's locker ſome years ago.—Od's mylife! that man had charge of a ſhip long before I cracked the ſhell; and the duce take me if I don't think he looks younger than I am; ſounder he is I am ſartain; and when he ſhook me by the hand, by way of old acquaintance, may I be a biſhop, if he did not bring the tears into my eyes. And I'll lay you a wager, you won't gueſs who called upon me this morning to underwrite a policy? I refuſed him, though ſhe is a charming veſſel that he commands; becauſe why, ſays you! —becauſe I would not truſt my old ſhoes with him, ſays I,—let alone talking of inſurance;—why, the fellow is neither ſailor, nor ſoldier.—What dos't not know now who I mean?—Young Paddy O'Flarty to be ſure, a poor beggarly dog with his ruffles over his finger ends, more like a taylor than a ſailor; he hails for that port I underſtand: but I had not patience to talk to him, and ſet him off preſently with a flea in his ear; a half-rocked, ſmock-fac'd lubber! you have nothing to do but to look at his phiz to tell him he lies for a ſon of a whore; He a ſailor!—you muſt excuſe me,—I can't help being

being in a paſſion, becauſe I know the fellow does not know how to knot two ends of a rope together: I had turned out, and juſt got rigged all to my garters, which I had in my hand when he came in: At firſt, from his congees, ſcrapes, and powdered locks, I took him for a French *valet de chambre;* but when he opened out his buſineſs, I recollected there was ſuch a chap;—however, I pretended not to know him, and he was flouriſhing away at a great rate, when I taking him up ſhort, ſaid, Well Captain, I don't care if I do inſure one thouſand pounds, provided you will:—do one favour for me, O that he would, with his heart—(thinks I to myſelf you muſt pray to God to make you able firſt)—Well then, Sir, ſays I, as you are a ſailor, I hope you won't take it amiſs;—no reflections Sir;—It is my way, a little odd humoured or ſo;—for I had ſaid before you came in, you muſt know, that I would not ſet my hand to any policy, without the captain would firſt ſhew me how to clap a running-bowling-knot on that garter there (preſenting it to it to him); but he ſeemed to be mighty offended, and kicked, and cuffed, and bounced in ſuch a manner, that I was obliged to lift up my crutch, by way of letting him ſee I had not loſt the uſe of my arms; and, to be ſure, he did not wait for my ordering him to the door. If I had not known him, I

ſhould have been confirmed in my firſt opinion of his being a Frenchman, by his manner of taking leave.—I knew his pedigree from firſt to laſt, you muſt know, and to hear him talk, faith, you would have thought he was a deviliſh fine fellow but the maſter that he was with before he commenced captain, told me, that he was never above ſix or ſeven voyages at ſea in his life, and ne'er durſt go up aloft, and that if it blew a capful of wind, he was ſure to be ſkulking below in the cabin. The Captain would have kept a taught arm over him, mind ye, and would have knocked his brains out (if he had any) if he had not larnt his buſineſs; for he was a ſeaman himſelf every inch of him, if the puppy had not had as one may ſay, a *timber head* in her:—you underſtand me, meſſmate; one of your ſhip's couſins you know,—and came in at the cabin windows, while you and I were obliged to work our way through the hauſe holes, my boy. They tell me he has got a great deal of your ſmall-talk, and dreſſes ſo genteely that I make no doubt the Captain cuts a figure amongſt the ladies; and though I have a great many objections to the puppy, and can ſcarce bear to mention his name civilly, yet hang me that does not think he is very well qualified for the one half of them; for I know it is

the

the way of a parcel of them to turn up their nose at an honest fellow who has a check'd shirt on, and minds his business; but strip the jackdaw of his plumes and relationship to great folks, and I should be glad to know how matters stood then! I am afraid after all now, Miss would be after liking him who could make the pot boil: Let them alone, cunning gipsies, they have more sense than one would imagine they had from seeing them decked and bedizened with a number of bird's feathers, toys, trinckets, and fallals, that you and I would not pick off the streets. And, seriously speaking now, I wonder such a fellow as this has the impudence to shove his nose aboard of a ship, much less pretend to take charge where a man is; but things are alter'd now, and between you and I, a brave fellow that knows his duty is nothing thought of as times go; he must be a gentleman forsooth. They tell me there is a genius going to publish a book to larn them; but, by the Lord Harry, I think he may spare himself the trouble; we shall always have over monny of these cattle: they are learnt to his hand, believe me; and he may say what he likes on that subject, but its a pitty, I think, he had not better employment!—Gentlemen sailors!—the devil take your Gentlemen sailors, say I!—Now I should be glad to

know

know if ſuch a chap as this, had a parcel of fellows of the ſame kidney along with him (as birds of a feather, you know, are apt to flock together) what they would make of her?—ſhe would be very genteely handled, to be ſure, there I agree with him; but ſhould like to know how they would prick their way up Swin in a winter's night? They would ſhake a cloth in the wind;—the ladies men would be out of their element, methinks, ſomething like the bear in the boat, meſſmate; you ſee I have not forgot old ſchool affairs yet, my boy!—hah, hah, hah!—I could die with laughing at the very thoughts on't; and even ſuppoſing now the pretty maſters could get the ſails trimmed after they were looſed, ſheeted home, and hoiſted for them; who would be the boy to take his trick at the helm, or who ſhould direct at the cunn, and cry, luff, boy, luff—luff you may—very well thus now—thus keep her—thus and no near—near, my boy, keep her full—near, I ſay—juſt keep the weather-leach trembling? This to them, now, would be as bad as Latin and Greek to us, though, let me tell them, we could do without their gibberiſh; and their foreign lingoes, I would have them to know, will not haul the main-top bowling. But what ſignifies talking, its au the faſhion now, with

this

this difference only, that they take care to have a lad or two, that knows how things ſhould be; and if they ſhould engage a privateer, and take her, then it is a noble action:—Such a ſhip, and captain ſuch a one; when, perhaps, if the truth was known, the raſcal was ſtowed away all the time of the engagement in the bread-locker; but he tips them a few yellow-boys, and ſo paſſes for as fine a fellow as any in Chriſtendom. The Lord preſarve us! but what will this world come tee at laſt? If I ever prayed in my life, I could juſt now, for as I am a mortal man, and hope to eat my dinner, I ſee no end to it: Why, the very boys begin to copy after them as faſt as they can, and thoſe that uſed to have their hair dock'd by a platter when I went to ſea, have now their falſe tails, and curls at the ears forſooth:—what think you of that now for a change, meſſmate? And did you never take notice of ſome of my brother captains that uſed to have their hair as I have, put up now in the buckle, with a dozen or two of papers, hanging dingle, dangle, juſt like ſo many candle ends?—Methinks I hear ſome of the people calling, and the boy anſwering, *I can't come, I tell you; I'm curling my maſter's hair.*—But if he is a gentleman, and has part of a ſhip, or ſo, and goes to ſea himſelf,

ſelf,—and puts his boat off from the land now and then, perhaps he will ſport you one of your fine French bobs, with a long tail down to his rump, curled, frizzled, and powdered; and looks, for all the world, juſt like a mouſe in a meal tub: But then, there is ſomething to be ſaid for this, mind ye;—they have commenced foreign ſea captains, you muſt know; and when you ſpeak of the ſhip, take care you do not call her as you uſed to do, nor the maſter neither, without you wiſh to have your head broke:—She is now the Bourdeaux Trader, let me tell you, captain ſuch a one, mind ye; and though the fellow perhaps cannot ſay *bo*! to a gooſe, believe me, he holds his head as high, and ſtruts like an oſtrich. And, though you know I am a profeſſed enemy to every man who does not ſerve a regular apprenticeſhip, and larn his buſineſs as a youth ought to do; yet, for au that, there is a young fellow that you and I are acquainted with, that is a bit of a favourite of mine: He is not regularly bred, (more's the pity ſays you) but it was his fortune to enter into it by way of livelihood; and I'm not that unconſcionable neither, for all they reckon me ſuch a teſty fellow, as to blame onny body for doing the beſt they can. He has the gift of the gob, mind ye, and

has

has fine ſcholarſhip along with it, which tells him when to open, and when to keep his mouth ſhut; and not like that puppy I was talking of, who, knowing nothing, is ever ready to ſpew out his nonſenſe, and let every body know that he's a fool.—To be ſure I acknowledge he is not ſo great a proficient in our way as I could wiſh, but avaſt a bit, he is coming faſt endways; and all in good time. I hope to ſee him a fine fellow before he has got a twelvemonth o'er his head yet: And what I admire him moſt for is, when he is in company with ſeamen he is all ears, and has ſenſe enough never to betray any deficiency amongſt ſtrangers that might leſſen him; for as he paſſes for maſter, you know, one would not have him like O'Flarty, to carry a tally on his head to tell folks he did not know his buſineſs.—There's the beauty, my boy, he has good ſenſe and modeſty to direct him, and wiſhes to be informed; and when that is the caſe, one has a right to expect every thing from ſuch a young fellow as this: and give him our ſeamanſhip now, with his abilities, and take my word for it, neither you nor I would be fit to hold the candle to him:—But you ſhall hear all and about it, juſt as I had it from his mate; who, to let you into the ſecret, ſarved his time with

me, ſo that I can couſin over him, mind ye; and he tells me, that his maſter, as he calls him, has larnt already to play his cards ſo as to be paſſable, and ſhuffle and cut with the one half of your youngſters, and its a thouſand to one an honour turns up;—and knows things tollerably well in regard to ſeamens duty, ſuch as working a ſhip, &c. and can not only tell when things are as they ſhould, or ſhould not be, but how they ought to be.—That's my lad, go on,—I warrant ye that's the plan. Excuſe me, meſſmate, for though he is not a drops blood to me, yet my heart waxes warm whenever I hear he's doing well: And as his bread is baked for him, you know, he has nothing to do but to eat it, as the ſaying is;—and moreover, he keeps a very decent command, and the mate at firſt paſſing him off to the people as a man of very few words, and very ſhy, and ſo forth; and that he left things in general to the mate, as he did not care for trouble, and only interfered on particular occaſions; and though you would not think he takes much notice of things, ſays he, but believe me, there is not a rope-yarn out of the place on't but he is the firſt man to find fault with it; and its his way, as he ſays, to mention theſe things when we are alone together; and he

thinks

thinks he has no buſineſs for me if I cannot ſee his orders duly executed, and ſo forth. And he declared to me, there was not a man on board that knew he did not know his way through Swin perfectly except himſelf. Now there is a little management here on both ſides of the queſtion; and, as matters ſtand, its all fair:—The mate, under the roſe, to be ſure, has the charge of the ſhip, and the other having the name of the captain, they are in the right to keep the wheel-band in the nick, and ſo keep up appearances; but the beſt of au's to come tee yet,—for ſays the mate to me (that's my boy Will, that was) "I dare ſay my maſter will be as good a judge as myſelf in a ſhort time. For, between you and I, he aſks me things that puts me to the puzzle ſometimes, which makes me dive into matters that perhaps I would not, leſt he ſhould fancy I was ignorant of what I ſhould know; and I think, as how ſo be, at this day, I am the better man for it.—He is a good ſcholar, and when the ſhip is in deep water, and I out of my latitude, he knows how to make as good a land-fall as e'er a he that ever ſet his foot aboard one; and was ſo kind as to larn me (I don't care who knows it) to keep a reckoning laſt voyage, when I was up the Eaſt with him. I offered to leave him on that account, for I'm a

lad (though I ſay it that ſhould not ſay it) that does not like to undertake what I think I have not ſome little knowledge of; but he would not hear of it, and was pleaſed to ſay, he thought it was but fit, that as I had larnt him how to take care of her coaſt-wiſe, that he ſhould teach me to carry her acroſs the water:—And now, added he, I have ſaid more to you than ever I ſaid to any man before; you may mention the ſervice he has done for me, and that I ſaid ſo, if you think proper; but as to what I did for him, it was only my duty, beſides he is improving daily, and have not a doubt but he will be my maſter in that way, as well as every other, in a ſhort time." Well, meſſmate, what think you of my choiſe now? I think one may call him, by and by, a Gentleman Captain, and not call him out of his name neither; and if this is the kind of captain, mind ye, and not your O'Flarties, but a man who can be at once a gentleman and a ſeaman, that the Author means who is going to publiſh, he has my beſt wiſhes, and I ſhould not care if he and I made two to-morrow morning.

"There is another of my pupils, not quite ſo modeſt as him I was talking of juſt now;—

there's

there's the devil on't,—he's copied after me, I warrant you now; for, believe me, he is as like what I was, as two beans is to one another: I wish I could set about talking to him, but, do you know, I have still some little pride about me that way.—He is one now that boasts of knowing his business; why, the foolish fellow should thank me for that; for he and I would have been both to blame if he had not: He is, I must own, a fine lad in many respects, but I am afraid these confounded airs he gives himself will spoil him; and, do you know, that would do me a deal of harm, as I should be apt to blame myself for it.—I wish I had him here, I would box his ears—I would, a blockhead; boast of knowing his business! why I could tell him there's Tom the tinker, Harry the shoe-maker, and Jack the cobler do the same; and every man to his trade, you know. I wish thou would talk to him, for according to my shallow judgment, which is just such another as his own, with this difference only, that I have had a little more experience, and see things in a different light from what I used to do;—and if he would take my advice, I would not have him stir that pot, for if he does, I can tell him it will stink most confoundedly: I have been out a little that way in

my

my reckoning myſelf, and therefore can direct him without either chart, or compaſs."

I have given you the converſation as it paſſed, in Captain W—ts own words, as near as poſſible to the beſt of my remembrance: He is a fine honeſt hearty fellow, and wiſhes well, I dare ſay, to all mankind; he is a little peculiar in his humour, poor man, but I attribute that to his love for his profeſſion, which ſometimes carries him out of his depth. I will make no remarks, but leave you to your own reflections, and ſhall be glad to hear your ſentiments juſt as it ſtrikes you the firſt opportunity. And remain unalterably,

Yours affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER XIII.

*Be well advised, and wary Counsel make,*
*'Ere thou dost any Business undertake;*
*When undertaken, thy Endeavours bend,*
*To bring thy Actions to a perfect End.* RAN.

*Example is a living Law, whose sway*
*Men more than all the written Laws obey.*
ANT. and CLEOP.

DEAR JACK,

IN my last I think I gave you verbatim, the conversation that passed between our neighbour captain W—t, and your humble servant: But these are peculiarities only, and do not contaminate the mind so much as they prejudice the body, and I hope what has been said on that subject, added to the unhappy consequences, of which he himself is an instance, will be a sufficient caution for you not to split on that rock; and was I to enumerate every particular I would wish you to avoid, I am afraid instead of a Letter, it would scarce come within the

compass

compaſs of a volume; but thoſe I have already given you are the principal, which if you attend to properly, the reſt will follow of courſe.

Captain D—y informs me, your maſter has made you mate; it gives me inexpreſſible pleaſure, it being a thing you had no right to expect from a ſtranger, and what I am confident he would never have done, particularly as he goes with you himſelf, had he not thought you properly qualified; and therefore, preſuming on your knowledge of your duty, which I muſt tell you requires every exertion, ſhall only make one remark, which is, *to make no difficulties*:—Keep the ſeamen at a proper diſtance, be obliging and attentive to your maſter, and remember that all duty is an officer's. And as your next ſtep will be to have the command of a ſhip, and thereby not only accountable for your own, but in a great meaſure for the conduct of thoſe entruſted to your care, I have offered to you ſome further conſiderations relative to that ſtation, which I would recommend to you carefully to avoid; as on that depends your preſent, as well as future happineſs.

When you have the command of a ſhip, always

ways make a point of being on board by day light; and, ſhould buſineſs prevent you, which I conceive to be very ſeldom the caſe, give ſtrict orders to your mate never to ſend on ſhore for you after it is dark; and, ſhould you not be at the place appointed, and where they are accuſtomed to meet with you, be ſure to leave particular orders not to expect you; and, ſhould they fail in doing ſo, your general order to the boys on not finding you there being to go on board immediately, ſhould they treſpaſs on your commands, it will then be your fault if you do not help their memories a ſecond time, and teach them to be more mindful in future. Perhaps this may not ſtrike you, or appear of any great conſequence; and I apprehend you think the principal danger conſiſts in going on ſhore, and returning on board; to be ſure this is attended with ſome riſk, particularly in the dark, with young boys, and ſtrong ſpring tides; yet, upon the whole, I believe few accidents happen. I look upon the greateſt and moſt perilous ſituation to be, after they are got on ſhore: and, when you have heard my reaſons, I dare ſay you will be of the ſame opinion. I can aſſure you, I know ſome inſtances of young men being ruined by their maſters keeping them waiting for them till

two or three o'clock in the morning: I ſhall mention no names;—this is too delicate a ſubject to be trifled with;—it may be I have been miſinformed, and conſequently erred in judgment. I would much rather put it upon that footing, than do an injury to an innocent inoffenfive character; and, what would it profit me, my Brother, to take from another that which does not enrich me, but robbing him of, makes him poor indeed? I will addreſs myſelf to you then in general terms, and not paſs it over in ſilence as at firſt I intended; for, on ſecond thoughts, I could not help conſidering it as a duty incumbent upon me, particularly as a ſea-faring man, to point out thoſe rocks and ſhoals on which others have been ſhipwrecked; for, although it would be of no ſervice to the poor mariner who ſuffered by it, yet it may be uſeful, as it will ſerve for a beacon for ſuch as come afterwards. I think thoſe maſters (whom I flatter myſelf, are but few in number) who keep their ſervants waiting for them from eight o'clock at night until three or four o'clock in the morning, have a great deal to anſwer for:—I do not inquire what they are doing, that is not my buſineſs; but what they ſhould not do and what hurts the community, is every body's; and more eſpecially thoſe who

have

have children under their care. I will venture to affirm, that it has been the deſtruction of many an honeſt well-meaning lad; and, although theſe gentlemen may not conſider it in the criminal light that I do, yet they would do well to remember, that their ſervants are their fellow-creatures at leaſt, compoſed of the ſame materials, fleſh and blood; and ſeveral of them, ſetting aſide their ſubordinate ſituation, in many reſpects greatly their ſuperiors. Degenerate men! ſurely ye court your own diſgrace, and it would be the height of folly and madneſs in me to lay down rules of temperance, and ſobriety to you; who make rioting and debauchery your principal amuſements: I muſt own I am ſo much of a philanthropiſt, as to feel a degree of ſhame and ſorrow in being under the diſagreeable neceſſity of expoſing thoſe vices, which, had they affected only yourſelves, ſhould have paſſed in oblivion for me.—I do not pretend to regulate your conduct, as I am afraid you are too wiſe in opinion for inſtruction, and, I dare ſay, know much better than you practiſe; but I muſt tell you, that theſe vices taint public virtue; as they are not only criminal in themſelves, but deſtructive to others, and of ſo flagrant a nature as to carry a train of unhappy conſequences along with them.

If ye will drink,—be it ſo;—but cannot you enjoy your bottle and your friend, as you call it, without being noiſy and tumultuous? preſerving at the ſame time, a little of the milk of human kindneſs, a fellow-feeling for your ſervvants:—What! I ſuppoſe you think, becauſe you are their maſters, you are to be their tyrants; and they, your meek, paſſive, and obedient ſlaves?—So wills lawleſs power,—but what ſay ye? We have been treated ſo and worſe, is your general anſwer; and what ſhould awake the compaſſionate feelings then, you make uſe of as a reaſon founded on equity, for exerciſing your tyranny.—Fie for ſhame!—you make me bluſh for you!—If ye plead a want of proper knowledge in this buſineſs, read, what is too much neglected, their common indenture;——there you will find the obligations are mutual, and that the maſter has a part to act as well as the ſervant. Think, if it be poſſible, while carouſing at the board of luxury and intemperance, that there are others waiting your commands, perhaps wet, hungry, cold, and comfortleſs: Think! O think, e'er it be too late, leſt they, urged by cruel neceſſity (for cold and hunger have no bounds) be tempted to pick up ſome diſorderly companions on the ſtairs, no matter who or what they are, any one

who

who has more mercy and humanity than yourſelves of courſe muſt be acceptable; and ſhould they offer them a little neceſſary refreſhment, it is more than probable (thus circumſtanced) they would not refuſe it; but then, ſay you again, "Who is going to be ſo fooliſh as to give it them without money?" I make anſwer, Thoſe who mean that you ſhould repay them: Their neceſſities plead powerfully, and they obey in conſequence of that neceſſity; and are by this very means tempted to ſteal and pilfer from their maſters, to procure them what is their right by inheritance, the neceſſaries and comforts of life. I would not wiſh to juſtify diſhoneſty by any means, but only meant to point out, what is (in common juſtice to them) reaſonable to ſuppoſe their motive at firſt, and which originates principally in the diſorderly conduct of the maſter; and from hence ariſes the loſs of your running-geer, coils of cordage out of the forecaſtle, and a variety of other things, which could ſcare happen, I think, was it not for ſome one or more on board being privy to it: and, if you will give yourſelves leave to conſider, your truſty dog was on the watch; for he is a faithful ſervant, even to an ungracious maſter; and I have heard you frequently remark, that without his knowledge a rope-yarn

could

could not ſtir?—How then, in the name of wonder, is your cat, and tackle-falls unreeved, things taken out of the long-boat, &c. and yet your truſty dog alive, and well the next morning, and yet, perhaps there was nobody heard him ſtir, or make the leaſt noiſe?—How ſhould he? Is he not accuſtomed to your own people? And the way to form a proper judgment would be, to try him with a ſtranger; it will not admit of a doubt, and appears to me as plain as my A, B, C; and it is not unlikely but that thoſe very boys, aided and aſſiſted by thoſe wicked emiſſaries, and to whom they think themſelves obliged, are the principal agents concerned againſt you; and, I am afraid, too frequently plunder the owner, in default of the maſter.—I will admit, for argument's ſake, they meant to go no further; but eſcaping without the leaſt ſhadow of ſuſpicion, ſworn to ſecrecy, all equally concerned, and faring ſo well by thoſe who employ them, and whoſe intereſt it is to give them ſome little gratuity by way of encouragement, though trifling to what they procure for themſelves, they become at laſt ſo entangled in their villany, racked with ten thouſand apprehenſions in caſe of a diſcovery, and having gone ſo far they know not well how to retreat; and thinking,

per-

perhaps, the worſt is over, they become more hardened, and their conſcience of courſe leſs troubleſome; till, at length, it becomes habitual, and ſo familiar that their fingers from frequent practice, acquire a kind of itching for it; and what at the firſt gave them the greateſt uneaſineſs, which even neceſſity could not juſtify, to themſelves at laſt is become matter of choice; and, if they eſcape the gallows, it is only to fall a prey to infamy and diſeaſe!

Theſe, my dear Brother, are the fatal conſequences of being, what is uſually called, *a hearty fellow:* I am ſenſible it is done with no bad deſign, and queſtion whether they ever give themſelves the trouble to think of it: I am confident they do not, or elſe common policy would point out a different conduct, if it was but to preſerve economy and order on board; and, if you will conſider the matter rightly, he only treſpaſſes in another way, and is not a degree better than the boys;—nay, I may ſay worſe,—becauſe he ought to have better judgment to direct him, or elſe I think he is very unfit for that ſituation. But, the whole of the matter reſts here, he likes company, perhaps, and they like to have him; for he bleeds freely, as they term it; and, though he

he has no pretentions to ſinging, yet they will perſuade him that he ſings an excellent ſong, cracks a good joke, loves his friend, drinks a good bottle, and, in ſhort, is the life and ſoul of the company. And what does he give up in compliance to their humour? He hurts his pocket, injures his health, and ruins his character; three of the moſt valuable things in life!—and I ſhould be glad to know for what? Why, to be accounted a fine hearty fellow—that's all. It is a common obſervation, that youth is too eaſy led aſtray, and that example is followed more than precept; and, for argument ſake, we will ſuppoſe a maſter may forget himſelf, and be merry with his friend, and be no worſe man for it, according to the common gloſs that is uſually put upon theſe things; yet, does it follow, that his ſervants, who are mere boys in compariſon, ſhould have the ſame command over themſelves as he has? Beſides, there is a wide difference, and leſs temptation on the one ſide, when we come to ballance accounts. The captain and his friends have ſupped, perhaps, and are at their bottle; the boys are wanting theirs, and may be both hungry, thirſty, cold, and comfortleſs: Is it to be wondered at then, that they endeavour to make their time more eaſy, by finding out ſome

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convenient fire-ſide, flattering themſelves, that, as they know their maſter's hour, they will be time enough to attend him; theſe, one would naturally ſuppoſe, are their reaſons; I will not think they had any other idea: But they have more difficult cards to play, poor young fellows, than even they themſelves are aware of. A thouſand to one they have any caſh; and, it is more than probable, fall an eaſy prey to the artful and deſigning; nay, you may be morally certain of it, as no one would give them houſe-room at ſuch an unſeaſonable hour, without having ſome ſiniſter view; and their hoſt, who never did a good thing in his life perhaps, pities their uncomfortable ſituation, tells them to walk in and warm themſelves; and, "though I never ſaw you in my life," ſays he, "I know what it is to ply upon the water in a dark cold winter's night; and, between you and I, (affecting a good-natured familiarity) I think this night ſmells rather cooliſh, and a pot or two of brown ſtout warm, with a little gin in't, would not do us any harm:—what think you, my hearts?—There is nothing to pay,—you are exceeding welcome;—my wife ſells greens and ſeveral odds and ends, ſuch as you ſee; and when your maſter wants any thing in our way, you'll oblige me by coming,—that's

all."—By this means, he is ſure to have them back again, ſo does not hint at any thing for the preſent, for fear of ſuſpicion, and appears to act entirely from principles of common generoſity:—The bait takes, and has the deſired effect. He now begins to try how their pulſes beat, and if he finds them a little ſcrupulous he will endeavour to work them up to his purpoſe by degrees, and ſo artfully gain upon their credulity and inexperience; that, though they have honeſt principles, and are plundering their maſter, yet they are taught to look upon it in a different light: Cuſtom reconciles every thing;—they are told that there is no living without it; and, I dare ſay, are at length firmly perſuaded, that the boys of all the other ſhips do the ſame; in ſhort, that it is as common as two farthings for a half-penny; and, to boys who are too young to be fond of porter, apples, pears, tarts, a diſh of tea, roaſt apples, nuts, &c.—are great inducements. But do not theſe faults the boys are guilty of, originate, think you, in the diſorderly conduct of the maſter? at leaſt, for my own part, I cannot help conſidering it in this light; and I am afraid it will not be ſufficient that we mean well ourſelves, we ſhould certainly ſet an example, particularly where we have the care of

young

young people, or elſe it ſignifies nothing what we ſay to them; beſides, it is our duty to take eſpecial care to prevent their entering into temptations as much as poſſible; and, I think, it muſt appear very clear to any unprejudiced perſon, that if theſe young people had been on board at proper hours, as they ought, each party would have been a gainer by it; and the conduct I mean here particularly to point at is, that of the maſter, which, I think I need not ſay, is highly reprehenſible as it is obvious it carries a train of unhappy conſequences along with it.

Aſſure yourſelf, Jack, that, as in this, ſo in every other particular which may contribute to your improvement and inſtruction, you ſhall never want information, or aſſiſtance from

Your affectionate Brother,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER XIV.

*Beware the dang'rous Beauty of the Wanton;*
*Shun their Enticements; Ruin, like a Vulture,*
*Waits on their Conquests; Falshoods too's their Business:*
*They put false Beauty off to all the World,*
*Use false Endearments to the Fools that love them.* OTW.

DEAR JACK,

I Heard that you were expected shortly at Rochelle, and therefore gave my Letter the chance of meeting you there; I conclude you had not an opportunity of writing to let us know your destination, as you are, in general, a very punctual correspondent;—you see how ready I am to apologize for you, and attribute your silence to want of opportunity, rather then neglect or want of inclination.—But to return to my subject, and act agreeable to promise.

In my last I pointed out to you the fatal consequences of keeping disorderly hours; you know the character I alluded to perfectly. I will give

you

you another ſpecimen, equally criminal, though in a different way.

Was this diſorderly conduct of the maſter, to be attended with no worſe conſequence than that of rendering their ſervants their maſters; it would be more than ſufficient, I think, to make them obſerve ſome little medium.—I met with an inſtance, which I will mention briefly as it comes of courſe. The laſt time I went to London, I took a paſſage by ſea from *Tyne-mouth Haven*, I forget the captain's name, however that is not material; he was a ſenſible agreeable young man, and treated me very cordially, which you may naturally ſuppoſe, made me wiſh to return with him.——I was lucky enough to finiſh my buſineſs and arrive time enough to ſave my diſtance, for he had juſt got his ballaſt, and was proceeding down the river. Two of his ſervants, it ſeems, had been on ſhore without his leave, and came on board in Limehouſe Reach, very much intoxicated; he was angry, and had, I think, a ſufficient reaſon for being ſo, on many accounts, particularly, as he had been obliged to give himſelf extraordinary trouble; and was going to give them a little neceſſary correction with a ſmall piece of rattling line, which he got for the purpoſe, when the elder

of

of the two, finding how matters went, told the captain, before the ſhip's company, that he might flog them if he pleaſed, but that he would adviſe him not, for if you do, ſaid he, you may take my word for it I'll be up with you adding with a ſneer, you know where we found you! I underſtand, from your girl Molly, that you told your wife a long ſtory about looſing your watch; and, I am told, you could not make your accounts out by ſome pounds; but we will take care to explain and ſet theſe matters to rights, and your wife and the owner ſhall know how the land lays.—I cannot ſay, Brother, it was as they wiſhed to inſinuate, I rather hope it was not; but it had the ſame effect, for, to my great ſurprize, he made no reply, but turning round on his heel, ſays to me, "Mr M—r—ll, what ſay you to a glaſs of gin and water, and a pipe of tobacco? I accepted the propoſal, and we went into the cabin; but I could hear the laugh go greatly againſt him. Now, it is next to a miracle to me, when things are thus ſituated, how a man, after loſing his prerogative, gets his ſhip navigated; at all events, he muſt ſubject himſelf to a great many mortifying things, which a man of ſpirit could never ſubmit to. Was this conduct hurtful only to the maſter, it would be of leſs conſequence, but it

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ſtrikes at the very root of human ſociety; for what is diſobedience of orders, but want of proper ſubordination? and, was this to prevail univerſally, I only aſk you, what would be the conſequence? Beſides, it is an introduction to all kinds of vice; for, admitting even the maſter kind, and rather indulgent to his ſervants than otherwiſe, and they, perhaps, perfectly honeſt, and would aſſiſt in defending, rather than plundering his property; yet, if he keeps late hours, and has his ſervants waiting on ſhore for him, until two or three o'clock in the morning, though a good man, in many reſpects, his conduct, in this particular, is highly reprehenſible; for although his ſervants are honeſt, it does not follow, that they are proof againſt other temptations. Some fall by profligate women, who would have remained firm and unſhaken in any other ſituation; and, in all probability, would not have met with ſuch a temptation, had it not been for the diſorderly conduct of the maſter, until they had arrived at an age in which they were more capable of judging;—a ſeaſon that would have preſented them as objects of contempt and deteſtation, rather than deſire. But when the maſter ſets them the pattern, and they meet with each other at theſe infamous houſes,

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it becomes a crime of the greateſt magnitude, as it is but natural to ſuppoſe the fatal example of the maſter, who, as in this inſtance, was a married man, makes them conſider their tranſgreſſion as trifling in compariſon. Pardon me, my dear Brother, I have not a doubt but my caution is unneceſſary in regard to yourſelf; but, let me tell you, I have known young men, with the beſt intentions, fall a ſacrifice to this vice, and who, perhaps, had no propenſity to it; therefore be guarded, you cannot be too ſecure, for many and various are the arts of ſeduction, and ſo ſpecious the appearance, that we may be led into them if we are not particularly careful, almoſt without our knowing it; and want of experience in this caſe, has been the ruin of many. It behoves you then, to take care not only of your ſervants, but of yourſelf. Boaſt not of your own ſecurity, for we are all liable to error; and too many are the inſtances of young men falling a dupe to their own credulity.—But, by way of illuſtrating the matter, I will relate a ſtory which happened here ſome little time ago. A young gentleman, a captain of a ſhip, returning from the other end of the town, was overtaken by a heavy ſhower, and finding himſelf unable to procure a coach, was under the neceſ-

ſity of walking down in the midſt of it: Being deſirous to get on board, he hail'd the ſhip to ſend the boat on ſhore. A woman of the town paſſing at this inſtant, and drawing up the hood of her cloak, ſtumbled, as if by accident, againſt him; and, pulling it back, begg'd ten thouſand pardons, with ſo good a grace as almoſt to make an apology unneceſſary;—and, leſt he ſhould have an unfavorable opinion of her, from meeting her at ſo late an hour, had an excuſe ready, which he, unſuſpecting, was too ready to believe; pointing to ſome people that had juſt paſſed by, ſhe ſaid it was her company, and that ſhe lived juſt over the way; and affecting to be quite the innocent, open, cheerful girl, entered into converſation, pitied his uncomfortable ſituation in being obliged to wait there for the boat:—— "Are you ſure that they heard you?" added ſhe, with a look of inexpreſſible ſoftneſs. And, by a glimpſe of pale Cynthia's melancholy light, with an eye of affected modeſty, and maiden coyneſs, with bluſhes half concealed, and downcaſt eyes, ſhe ſays, "Indeed, Sir, here has been a dreadful night;—my mother will wonder what has become of me, though ſhe will naturally conclude the rain has prevented me;—for, except this little interval of fair weather, it has been

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one continued pour." "I have experienced it, Madam, ſays the Captain, for I have got wet to the ſkin in coming from Covent Garden;"—"Indeed! ſays ſhe, looking earneſtly at him,—alack, you are dripping wet, I ſee;—come along with me:—Yes, yes, I think I may venture, from your appearance you are quite the gentleman: My father and mother will be up, and there will be a good fire, where you may dry and make yourſelf a little comfortable before you go on board.—You will think me a ſtrange girl, perhaps, Captain, indeed I can't help thinking ſo myſelf; but its no matter, I would much rather you thought ſo than have your death to be laid at my door;—No, no, its impoſſible, my mother can't be angry.—I ſupped at Mr D——y's, the grocer, mind, they are old folks, and have got a daughter about my age; but you know them well enough, I ſuppoſe, Captain; for it may be you get your groceries there? I mention this leſt they ſhould aſk any queſtions; and as old folks are rather ſcrupulous, you know, I think I'll ſay you called in there as you came from the play, and going my way, Mr D——y ſaying I was a neighbour, had deſired you to ſet me home.—That will do; beſides, my mother has got a ſon herſelf at ſea, and therefore, will not be ſo particular with you

on that account:—We have not heard from him these three years.—Ah, my Brother! would to God that you was he; I shall always like a sailor for his sake.—Alas! you bring him to me back again; and now, methinks, he is once more restored to my remembrance, and my love: Stranger! excuse a woman's weakness, I can do nought but weep whene'er I think on him:—He was the delight of every eye, the pride and comfort of our hearts; but now he's gone, perhaps for ever, and left us to lament a loss we never knew the value of before.—Alas, my Brother! thou wert thy mother's darling, and thy sister's favorite;—may heaven restore thee to our wishes, and conduct thee safely back again! My mother had an unlucky ominous dream last night, pray God he may be well;—however, this I am certain of, she'll make you welcome for his sake."—Ye prudes in virtue, say, thus circumstanced, what would ye have done?

At his arrival at her house, appearances were greatly in her favour; and if he had an unhappy idea, it vanished at the sight of an elegant mansion, a couple of lamps at the door, servants in waiting, and, in short, every thing in stile; he began now to be uneasy about his dress, and to wish

wiſh he had not come in this trim, and was conſidering about an apology when the parlour door opening diſcovered an elderly lady ſitting on a ſopha, reclining with her head upon her hand, as if ſhe had been taking a nap; when, by a wink from his truſty guide, the pretended mother taking her cue, wonders at her ſtay, and looking round her, demands in an angry tone who this gentleman is ſhe has brought along with her? In reply, the daughter tells the well-feigned tale, which the mother ſeems at firſt averſe to hear; the daughter pleads, and ſhe unbends a little by degrees;—when, looking earneſtly in his face, ſeeming as if to recollect herſelf, ſuddenly ſtarting from her ſeat, ſhe flies into his arms, calls him her deareſt Jack, her darling boy, and hugs and kiſſes him as though he had been the very youth; and quite in raptures, exclaims,—"I could have ſwore 'twas he himſelf!—the eyes, the noſe, the cheeks, the mouth,—every feature ſpeak the model of my favorite boy! What ſay you, Jenny?—What makes you look ſo dull, child? I was not angry. Look at him.—Didſt thou ever ſee too faces ſo much alike?"——Nothing here is done, you ſee, to raiſe the alarm.—Vice puts on the garb of virtue, and what is ſtill more dangerous, be-

comes

comes it too: the Captain reconciled this to himself by accounting for all their kindness in consequence of his similitude to the brother and the son. Dost thou not tremble, then, for him who not knowing where he is, finds himself as comfortable as though he were at home? And now a supper is provided; no excuses will be heard, for stay he must; and he, not thinking any harm, is glad to find he is the cause of so much joy. The sparkling glass goes round, and now his spirits are revived with wine, the lively blush glows in his damask cheeks; the damsel drinks his health, and he, good honest Tar, unwilling to be outdone in courtesy, drinks and pledges her again; and so happy and familiar grown, that any stranger would have thought him master of the house. Ah, thoughtless man! Now thy head turns giddy, noisy mirth succeeds, fair reason's fled, or banished as a busy intruding guest, and youthful folly flows through every vein, whilst thou, deserted by thy heavenly guide, appears another Telemachus without his friend.—Ye foes to virtue, this is now your time!—ye demons of the night, this, *this* your prey!—The strumpet now assumes another shape; spreads her alluring baits to catch the unwary youth:—Alas, she is but too successful, her smiles bespeak a triumph; and see, he courts

his

his own disgrace! Now pleasure's syren-voice prevails, and he that listens is undone.—Fond youth, beware, and think, O think! ere yet it be two late. The gilded bait too oft conceals the deadly hook. Trust not thy boasted fortitude, unguarded boy, or thy soft minutes with betraying love.—Why loitereſt thou? methinks thou standest like one absorb'd with wine, not knowing why! Shake off this slothful indolence, which, like a mist, o'erspreads thy eyes, benumbs thy faculties, and lays thee open to the tempter's wiles.——At such an hour the prince of darkness sought the ear of Eve, and found her unsuspecting: from hence her sorrow, and from thence our woe!—Arouse thee then, awake from this deceitful trance, admit fair virtue, be thyself again; nor drink of her intoxicating wine, though offered by her hand in golden goblet: 'Tis poison to thy lips, and sooner or later the unconcocted venom will arrest the vital current, harrow up thy soul, and despairing hurry thee to shades of endless night.—Then fly! haste! begone! Ere yet, thou mayest in safety pass these polluted walls, and curs'd contaminated roof; the abode of demons, and the fiends of hell!—lest sacred vengeance overtake thee, and the ministers of justice finding thee here, punish thee,

thee, though innocent, with the guilty.—But ah! alas! I ſee and read thy weak reſolves, and, although no prophet, can foretel thy fall:—The gathering clouds beſpeak the approaching ſtorm. I ſee the fatal poignard hanging o'er thy head ſuſpended by a ſingle thread, and yet thy looks belie thee if thou thinkſt the danger nigh!—Raſh youth, forbear! and urge not on to endleſs ruin: Believe me, the object of thy purſuit is a phantom, a ſhadow, a being light as air,—a vapour which deceives the benighted traveller, and leads him on to the brink of ſome tall precipice; and in ſuch caſe, I think I need not ſay, the man who ruminates is loſt, as his next ſtep betrays his unwary feet, and hurls him headlong into the gulph below. Admit he ſhould eſcape unhurt, this dangerous path once trod, ſorrow, remorſe, deſpair, and all the direful train of evils which haunt the guilty ſoul will follow him, and lead him on from vice to vice, till like the *Barnwell* of the age, he tramples virtue underneath his feet; and what in bare idea would once have frozen his ſoul, remorſeleſs he can now perform.

By ſuch examples are we taught to prove
The miſchiefs that attend unlawful love.

I have

I have related this from good authority as matter of fact, and I am ſorry to ſay I believe there are too many inſtances of a ſimilar nature; however this I hope will be ſufficient to alarm your fears, and convince you of the danger of truſting to appearances.—No man is wiſe at all hours, ſays a celebrated Author; and, therefore, it is the ſafeſt way to act cautiouſly. A ſuſpicious conduct in regard to ourſelves is highly commendable, vanity and ſelf-conceit will then have no dominion over us. Avoid temptations, and think, that under a fair face and ſly inſinuating addreſs, there may, as in this inſtance, lurk a very wicked and miſchievous heart; and that words, to appearance ſweet as honey, may be intended for the worſt of purpoſes. In the bait which the angler ſo diligently dreſſes and prepares for the fiſhes palate, is there not hid a deadly hook? And does the fowler ever feed the birds, but when he intends to catch them? Thoſe that were wiſe amongſt the Trojans, never feared the Grecians more than when they brought them preſents; and every circumſpect man, when any one offers him bread in the one hand, being ever mindful of the proverb, will be ſure that he has not a ſtone in the other; and as no credit is to be given to outward appear-

ances, ſo he will give none. I am ſenſible at your time of life, this kind of doctrine will not be very palatable: Had it come from your father indeed, you might have thought it was the conſequence of age ſoured by repeated diſappointments; but when you conſider that theſe obſervations are made by your Brother, and at a time of life too in which we are apt to feel the warmth of generous friendſhip, when the heart, ſuſceptible of the ſlighteſt impreſſions, leaps and exults at other's joy, or grieves for ſorrows not its own;—it is not likely it would adopt this language, without knowing it to be true either from relation, obſervation, or experience. Ah, my Brother! where will you find ſuch a diſintereſted friend?—a friend who, unſolicited, proclaims his own weakneſs, hazards the looſing your eſteem, and all to advantage you.

*Harriot* is from home:—I had a letter from her yeſterday, in which ſhe expreſt a great deſire to ſee you, and begged I would not forget her beſt wiſhes. She writes in high ſpirits, and, if I conjecture right (notwithſtanding all her proteſtations with regard to celebacy) there is a young man, not far from our neighbourhood, who will perſuade her to change her name in a

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ſhort time. For my own part, ſeriouſly ſpeaking, I am not ſurprized at it; for were I to look out for a wife, I muſt own I ſhould juſt endeavour to get ſuch an one as our *Harriot*; and, let me tell you, Jack, a good-natured girl, with a tolerable ſhare of underſtanding, and poſſeſſed of ſenſibility enough to heighten the joys and alleviate the afflictions of life, and at the ſame time, dutiful to her parents, kind and affectionate to her brothers and ſiſters,—is not every where to be met with; and, when found, I would wager ten to one ſhe makes an amiable wife. We muſt not be too ſanguine in our expectations;—We have all our peculiarities;—Perfection is not the lot of human nature; and if we cannot make good-natured allowances for each other, believe me, there is no ſuch thing as happineſs.—Adieu!—Let me hear from you as ſoon as poſſible; and if you have a mind to try your talents in the poetic way, write Harriot an epithalamium on her approaching nuptials.

Yours affectionately,

PALINURUS.

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# LETTER XV.

*——Proud, impatient*
*Of Ought superior, e'n of Heaven that made him,*
*Fond of false Glory! of the Savage pow'r,*
*Of Ruling without Reason, of confounding*
*Just and Unjust, by an unbounded Will.*

ROWE. TAM.

DEAR JACK,

I Heard yesterday upon the exchange, that you were at Rochelle: If so, you will receive both my Letters. I wonder I have not heard from you, but I can make great allowances, as I know your present situation requires a great deal of attention and care. I could not be easy until I had given you another instance of the fatal consequence of keeping late hours on shore. We will suppose, by way of diversifying the scene, some boys of a mild and tractable disposition, well-disposed, yet dreading the severity of a master, a man who will not admit or hear excuse, sit slumbering in the boat, and starting from some frightful dream; in which perchance he sees his

angry

angry lord, and flying from the wrath to come, precipitately plunges into the ſtream; unſeen he ſinks, and, ah! alas! he is no more. The cruel wretch, the author of all this dire miſchance, reeling, and intoxicated, coming to the boat, and finding only one boy, is enraged to think he is obliged to help to row himſelf on board: Nor once reflects on what may have happened to the other, but mutters curſes mixed with threats, on what he will do when he appears again:—Preſumptuous man! Thou little dream'ſt when that time comes, thou wilt not dare to look, much leſs to queſtion him.—And now arrived, "On board the ſhip, aho!"—he calls, when no one anſwers:—Happy is he who ſleeps or hides himſelf; for this baſhaw appears to them like the great Mogul to his poor ſlaves who dare not look him in the face. His faithful dog ſalutes him on the watch, and fawning ſtoops to kiſs his maſter's feet, which he indignant ſpurns, and kicks him for his proffered love; and, though ſo late an hour, and all are buried in the arms of ſleep, thundering on deck, he calls his mate: (I ſhould have ſaid his ſkip-jack) for he is no man who trembles at another's frown.—Awoke, full well he knew the maſter's tread, obeys the ſummons, and on deck he ſprings juſt like another ſavage without cloaths, and fawns, and looks like

like ſome poor ſpaniel dog, or guilty criminal, whoſe conſcience ties his tongue,—obſequious ſtands, and waits his dire commands: The haughty tyrant's dumb with rage;—he cannot ſpeak, much leſs deign to look on him his vaſſal ſlave; his conſequential pride is too much hurt to think there were no lights, nor yet his mate to attend and ſee him up the ſide. The overcharged cannon ſoon will burſt,—an angry man will fret and foam.—And now ſurcharged, he can no longer hold the abuſeful torrent which he pours on all: The ſlumberers ſtrait he calls, and ſets on ſome unneceſſary work,—ſays it is urgent, and muſt, and ſhall be done; and if unwillingly they go, "Shew me the man (he cries) who dare ſay nay". His mate ſtands trembling all this while like ſome poor truant boy, when firſt he meets his angry maſter's frown, and dreads the impending laſh; nor dares approach, and yet affraid to fly. The monſter, finding nothing now to wreak his vengeance on, ſtorming with rage, he ſlumbles o'er the lanthorn in the dark, the innocent cauſe of all this noiſe, and which was to have lighted him on board; when curſing the inanimated form, inſultingly he takes it, and kicks it over board; and now demands, with execrable oaths, to know where is his truſty page,—

his

his poor little cabin-boy; his drudge, his house-wife, and his ready ſlave?—who, hearing nothing of the fray, and dreaming perhaps of pleaſures yet to come, a-ſleep ſat ſmiling by the fire-ſide; but ſoon his furious maſter rouſed him from his trance, and now he finds his dream is realized, as ſtupid ignorance divines: And ſee, it pleads, and now is on the knee, while briny tears in quick ſucceſſion flow!—Thou haſt no feelings ſure, nor ever felt a father's love, or wept another's woe!—What, ſtill relentleſs? For ſhame! uncurl thy angry brow!—Obdurate man! ah, ſure thou haſt a heart of ſteel!—I have heard that ſavage beaſts will ſpare the ſmaller tribe, though pinched for food; and combat only with the larger herd, as if diſdaining ſuch ignoble prey.—Art thou a man then?—No, monſter; only in ſize, and ſhape; ſo are the cannibals who prey on human fleſh:—To theſe thy feelings ſpeak thee near a-kin; and as the devil is diſtinguiſhed by his cloven hoof, ſo by theſe ſigns I know thee; for it never yet was known a man e'er ſet his wit or ſtrength againſt a woman, or a child: Hie thee to the woods, and there aſſociate with thy brother brutes, too long thou haſt been tolerated here: And, ah! alas! methinks I ſee before my eyes the miſerable victim of thy rage, taught by

thee

thee, ſubmiſſive bends and offers thee a rod to beat himſelf; What vaſſalage is this for true-born Britiſh youths?—Is this the growth of Albion's Iſle,—the land of liberty and freedom?—No, ſavage!—thou brought'ſt it with thee from the woods, and with thee take it back again.—Dry thy eyes, my pretty boy, and if it be poſſible reſtrain thy ſighs and tears; with men they may avail, but ſavages will exult and torture thee the more.——Hark! hark!—What means that diſmal groan?—Barbarian, ſtay; thy cruel hand reſtrain:—fly, ye guardian angels, fly ere yet he murders him.—Ah, heart-piercing ſight; he has already knock'd him down! and ſee, the unhappy ſufferer's weltering in his blood, and bathing his obdurate maſter's feet with tears; beſeeching him, with looks enough to pierce a Stoic's heart, to name his crime, and he will never do the like again. At this the monſter grins a ghaſtly ſmile, and brandiſhing his arm like ſome proud potent victor in his rage, looks as if he had atchieved ſome mighty feat, and now exulting cries, "Your tears are all in vain; I am none of the melting kind;—none of your women's men, I ne'er could whinge and whine; no, no, *by Heavens* with me it will not, ſhall not do? Remember lights, I ſay; and leſt

you ſhould not, here, take this, Mate; for I am tired:—And, hark ye, Mind you write it in the little villain's ſides in black and blue."—Oh, I wiſh I could not add what truth commands! this youth was brother to the drowned boy.—This ſtory I know to be real matter of fact; however, I am happy to ſay, I never heard of an inſtance of the kind before; and I hope in future never will.

Theſe, my dear Brother, are awful conſiderations; and ſure it would hurt our repoſe to think we were the cauſe, and, though without deſign, the unlucky inſtruments of ſuch miſchance; but to aggrivate the offence by behaving as this man did, would be unpardonable indeed: He may think as he pleaſes, but I would not have his reflections; no, not for an empire: And, in another place, I am afraid if ſuch things ſhould happen through our neglect, it would be imputed as a crime, no matter how, or by what means, or where it was, its all the ſame, and ſo a conſciencious mind will picture it.

Upon the whole, I would have you to conſider what I have here offered for your peruſal with attention and care; it has coſt me

no

no little pains, I can aſſure you, to claſs the different characters, foibles, virtues, and vices in that progreſſive line I wiſhed you to view them; and ſure, it will be ſome recommendation to thoſe remarks, the additional weight they muſt bear on conſideration of their being drawn from real, not ideal life, and penned by a tender affectionate Brother; who can have no other motive than your welfare and happineſs in view; one of your own profeſſion, and a ſincere lover of the community in general. And, let me tell you, Jack, had I loved you leſs, I would have contented myſelf with inſtructing you by word of mouth in what I judged neceſſary for the regulation of your conduct, and in ſo doing I would have acquitted myſelf of my fraternal duty, but I would not thus have ſatisfied the natural affection I have for you which has prompted me to prepare theſe inſtructions in writing. At firſt I thought they would have been much ſhorter, but the diverſity and abundance of ſubjects I was obliged to treat of, has made me launch out further than I expected. Take it as a ſenſible mark of my affection; and if in any part of my diſcourſe I have gone beyond the common underſtanding of people of

my profession, attribute it only to the effect of my regard for you.

The old year is now almost gone, and if we look back, what a nothing it appears! departed like the tales that I've told! Thus shall our whole life appear, when our end approaches and eternity opens; but eternity will never expire, eternity will last world without end: When millions, unnumbered millions of ages are passed away, eternity will only be beginning!—Eternity;—eternity!—I am lost in the thought. Hiero, king of Syracuse, one day asked the philosopher Simonides his opinion with regard to the nature and attributes of God; the philosopher asked two days time to consider of it; at the expiration of which he asked four, doubling the number of days every time; the king astonished at his delays, Simonides answered, that the subject was above his comprehension, and the more he considered it the more obscure it appeared to him. This should be my answer, were you to ask my opinion of eternity.

Farewel!

Farewel!—You owe me an account of your health and welfare, and believe me ever

Your's affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER XVI.

*The Dead are only happy, and the Dying:*
*The Dead are still, and lasting Slumber holds 'em.*
*He who is near his Death, but turns about,*
*Shuffles a while to make his Pillow easy,*
*Then steps into his Shroud, and rests for ever.*

ROW. FAIR PEN.

DEAR JACK,

I Am glad to hear of your safe arrival in Old England, and shall expect you shortly. The visits of a Brother and a Friend, like those of the sun at this season, are extremely enlivening; I am sure, at least, they would both be acceptable to me at present, when my mind is as much overcast as the heavens: Therefore, I hope you will be as expeditious as possible. Harriot is impatient so see you, and I much more so. Your company at this time would be particularly agreeable, and contribute to disperse these clouds of melancholy which the loss of a very valuable friend has hung over me. There is some-

ſomething, indeed, in the firſt moments of ſeparation from thoſe whom a daily commerce and long habitude of friendſhip has grafted upon the heart, that diſorders our whole frame of thought and diſcolours all our enjoyments. Let philoſophy aſſiſt with the utmoſt of her vaunted ſtrength, the mind cannot immediately recover the firmneſs of its poſture, when thoſe amicable props upon which it uſed to reſt, are totally removed. Even the moſt indifferent objects, with which we have long been familiar, take ſome kind of root in our hearts; and I ſhould hardly care (as a celebrated Author has with great good-nature obſerved) to have an old poſt pulled up, which I remembered ever ſince I was a child.

To know how to receive the full ſatisfaction of a preſent enjoyment, with a diſpoſition prepared at the ſame time to yield it up without reluctance, is hardly, I doubt, reconcileable to humanity. Pain in being diſunited from thoſe we love, is a tax we muſt be contented to pay, if we would enjoy the pleaſures of the ſocial affections. One would not wiſh, indeed, to be wholly inſenſible to diſquietudes of this kind; and we muſt renounce the moſt refined reliſh of

our

our being, if we would, upon all occasions, possess our souls in a stoical tranquility.

That ancient philosopher, whose principles it was to converse with our friends as if they might one day prove our enemies, has been justly censured as advancing a very ungenerous maxim. To remember, however, that we must one day most certainly be divided from them, is a reflection, methinks, that should enter with us into all our tender connections of every kind.—

I am

Your's affectionately,

PALINURUS.

# LETTER XVII.

*——————Learn from hence*
*The Bounds of Good and Evil to discern.*
*Unhappy he, who does this Work adjourn,*
*And 'till To-morrow would the Search delay;*
*His lazy Morrow will be like To-day.*
*Yesterday was once To-morrow;*
*That Yesterday is gone, and Nothing gain'd,*
*And all thy fruitless Days will thus be drain'd;*
*For thou hast more To-morrows yet to ask,*
*And wilt be ever to begin thy Task:*
*Thou like the hindmost Chariot-wheels art curst,*
*Still to be near, but ne'er to reach the first.*

DRYD. PERS.

DEAR JACK,

BORNE on the wings of fleet revolving time, approaches new-year's-day: Consider then with yourself, my dear Brother, how thou hast spent thy life hitherto. Supposing this night thy soul was required of thee, art thou prepared to meet thy approaching change with any good degree of hope? if not, is it not necessary for thee to begin in good earnest to redeem by reformation the time thou hast mispent? And dost thou say to-morrow and to-morrow? Why not

to-day?—To-morrow comes and goes, and ſhall it find us ſtill the ſame? I have heard many complain of the ſhortneſs of time, but do you not think, on a ſerious conſideration, that we have abundantly more than we make good uſe of?—Time paſt cannot be recalled: How much does it intereſt us then to make uſe of the preſent by way of leſſon on the future, and begin the new year as though we had begun to live?—ſteadfaſtly purpoſing to lead a new life, and notwithſtanding the allurements and temptations to vice, taking the ſcriptures for our guide, dare to be ſingularly virtuous, by following, as far as human frailty will admit, thoſe plain eaſy rules, ſo every way calculated to render us comfortable here, and happy hereafter.

Are you then, dear Brother, convinced that death is inevitable; a reſurrection certain, and the conſequence either eternal happineſs or miſery? What haſt thou to plead in excuſe for thy folly, if thou art not influenced by ſuch convictions to lead a pious life? If miſery is thy portion, whom wilt thou blame? Not heaven, that were impious;—nor thy fellow-creatures who were thy companions, that were frivolous: Alas! thou alone muſt bear thy burden: Not

that

that thy companions ſhall eſcape; for as every one is culpable who gives way to the ſeductions of vice, what form or ſhape ſoever it may aſſume, ſo ſhall every one be anſwerable at the final day.

Put not off then till to-morrow (leſt to-morrow never dawn on thee) what may be done to-day: Time flies ſwiftly on, and who can ſay he ſhall ſee to-morrow? Nothing is ſo certain as death; and yet, methinks, we live as though we never thought on't. Is this acting like reaſonable beings, to acknowledge and profeſs an indiſpenſable duty, and what our ſureties engaged and promiſed for us while we were helpleſs infants, hanging at our mother's breaſt? and now we are arrived at riper years, ſhall we falſify their engagements by neglecting to follow them? God forbid. In the leſſer concerns of life, I am convinced this negligence would be more than ſufficient to ruin our credit, and draw upon us the cenſure of all good men; and in a matter of ſo much conſequence to be triflers, becomes a crime of the greateſt magnitude. Would any prudent man undertake a journey without firſt laying in proper neceſſaries?—a ſea captain a voyage, &c.—and ſhall we be ſo im-

provident as to make no provision for that, from whence no traveller returns? Does not the bare idea alarm and strike thee? To sleep, to wake no more! A dreadful consideration to those who lead unprofitable lives; but to the good and virtuous death has lost his sting, and they look and wait his coming as we would a long-expected friend, a welcome messenger who brings glad tidings, a safe pasport to a better haven.——What is there then so dreadful in death, that we are all so much afraid of? If it arises from the consideration of having spent our time unprofitably, why not set about a reformation? It is most certain we must return to original dust, from whence we came, but when, we know not; some one or other is perpetually.—Have we lost a friend?—I heard his funeral knell:—The alarming summons strikes home to the heart:—We mourn his loss to-day; make some resolves, which is forgot to-morrow: Thus do we spend our precious time away, depending on the amusements of an hour;—shadows that leave not so much as a trace behind. Are we then like children, to be amused with such trifles, when we may have substantial joys? Think what you please, these sentiments will take place, when all others will appear light as air.——

In

In the midſt of life we are in death, and the reaſon why we are ſo is very plain. If the fountain from whence we ſpring is mortal, how ſhould we be otherwiſe, who muſt needs partake of its eſſence and qualities? Nor is it any diſgrace to us that we are mortal. The greateſt diſgrace of human nature lies in this, that in our depravation we are wholly ſingular. To be mortal is the property of all ſublunary beings; but man alone is wicked; although he be endowed with thoſe rational faculties which are denied to brutes, yet he often perverts them to the worſt of purpoſes. Man is the only rebel nature has produced; all other beings anſwer the end for which they were created; ſurely then, hardened muſt he be, who is convinced of this truth, and yet ſpends the ſhort ſpace allotted him on this earth in the purſuit of vicious courſes. Let us not be aſhamed to talk and write of theſe things; they are worthy our ſerious conſideration, and God only knows the ſecrets of our hearts. Didſt thou ever ſee a good man at the hour of death? I cannot picture to myſelf any thing more edifying; and muſt own, I could wiſh you to be preſent at ſo awful and intereſting a ſcene; though painful in ſome reſpects, yet it frequently leaves laſting impreſſions, and has been known to

produce

produce the happieſt effects. I ſpeak from my own feelings,—methinks the ſcene is ſtill preſent to my view; as it is but a few days ſince I loſt a very valuable friend, Mr S—th, a gentleman of whom you have often heard me ſpeak. I was with him a few hours before he departed this life, and rendered him the laſt ſad office of a friend. He died perfectly reſigned, and preſerved his ſenſes to the laſt. I ſhall never forget him:—nothing could be more truly affecting. Sorrow was viſible in every one's countenance but his own. After ſome time ſpent in prayer, addreſſing himſelf to his wife, with a look of inexpreſſible ſoftneſs, "Weep not for me," ſays he, "but take care of our offſpring, and remember it was your huſband's laſt requeſt, that above all things, you teach them to *remember their Creator in the days of their youth:* Be comforted; I am only going to leave you for a little while, and hope to ſee you ſhortly. You were god-father to one of my children, ſays he to me, who bears my Chriſtian name; I hope I need not remind you of your duty:—Be to him a father and a friend;—if you loved me, you will love him alſo. And now I have done with this world. Farewel, 'till'—we meet again,—I ſuppoſe he would have ſaid, but theſe laſt ſad

accents

accents faultered on his tongue, which now hung inactive on the palate; and as I ſat kneeling by his bed-ſide, he graſped my hand affectionately, and looking up towards Heaven, his laſt breathings whiſpered praiſe.

Ah, my Brother! this is what I call a trying ſcene, and ſtrikes home to the heart. As he lived, ſo he died: Religion was the rule and model of his life, and yet no man was more open, friendly, kind, and cheerful; a convincing proof to me, that religion does not conſiſt in outward ſhew. In ſhort, he endeavoured to fulfil the duties of life,—was a good huſband, a tender father, a kind indulgent maſter, and an affectionate friend.

I ſhall make no apologies for this ſerious ſtrain: I wrote to inſtruct rather than divert you; beſides, however unfaſhionable, I think theſe are ſubjects that ought more frequently to employ our thoughts:—The change of ſeaſons remind us; and yon paſſing bell, which ſpeaks departed our amiable friend, bids prepare to follow him:—Our brother, our friend, is no more!—Look around his grave, and you will be convinced that numbers have paid the debt of nature before him;

him;—have met mortality, their ſentence, and are become earth again.—So muſt all follow after them: They ſhall no more return to us, but we ſhall go to them. Let every one, therefore, reflect within himſelf. Perhaps the next grave that is opened may receive him into that ſafe repoſitory, the boweis of the earth. Let it be our parts, then, to ſubmit with patience and reſignation to the Supreme Diſpoſer of events, comforting outſelves with the hope of a better life after this is ended; but in order to do this, we muſt uſe the means. To induce others to do ſo, is the ſole point I have in view, in the publication of theſe reflections; and ſhould they contribute to anſwer the purpoſe for which they were deſigned, I ſhall think my time and trouble ſufficiently repaid, concluding with the words of an admirable Poet, that I am

Careleſs of cenſure, nor too fond of fame,
Still pleaſ'd to praiſe, yet not afraid to blame;
Averſe alike to flatter or offend,
Not free from faults, nor yet too vain to mend.

PALINURUS.

*FINIS.*

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*Necessity*

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## E R R A T A.

Page 19. line 6. for *characterestic*, read *characteristic*. P. 22. l. 22. *pendant*, read *pendent*. P. 27. l. 12. *oppressions*, read *oppression*. P. 28. l. 8. *malace*, read *malice*. P. 28. l. 23. *susceptable*, read *susceptible*. P. 31. l. 2. Motto, *Landman*, read *Landmen*. P. 40. Catch-word, *giving*, read *growling*. P. 88. l. 3. *in*, read *it*. P. 19. l. 233. *practise*, read *practice*.

# ADVERTISEMENT.

THE *Author takes this opportunity of returning thanks to the generous Subſcribers to his work: and, though he once intended to acknowledge their favours by publiſhing their names, yet as many of them have expreſſed a wiſh that theirs might not appear, he hopes that his omitting the whole will not give offence.*



*Oct.* 29, 1785.